

Making music for the troops

Danville musicians travel to the war zone > **page 17**

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Rebuilding Lives Luncheon

Crowd hears sad tales of domestic abuse

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Danville

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Community divided by Prop 8

Differing views cause passionate responses

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Voters will decide on everything from park funding to president **PAGE 12**

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Streetwise

ASKED ON THE STREETS OF DANVILLE

Q: What was your most memorable Halloween costume?



The one I am going to wear this year. It's the Grim Reaper. It has a red face and a decomposing hand. It's really scary. I can't wait!

Jack Campbell
second-grader



My most memorable was when my girlfriends and I were a box of crayons. It was being part of a group that made it so fun. We had poster board with different colors and a cone hat. I want to say I was magenta but I am not sure.

Dorothy MacMahon
supermom



I cannot remember a specific costume but I do remember a great year. We were around 12 years old and we went Halloween caroling. We'd knock on doors singing songs and collecting candy.

Andrea and Amber Grimley
baby wrangler



Last year I was a Twister Game. It was an A frame dress with circles on it and my hat was the spinner. It was a success.

Nicole Becker
stay at home CEO



I was Obi-Wan Kenobi when I was 11 years old. I made a light saber out of a wrapping paper tube and tin foil. My mom sewed a gunny sack for the costume. I struck candy gold with that costume.

Don Campbell
software engineer

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

Voters this year will be deciding on everything from president to parking funding, from Danville Town Council to state Assembly to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Nicole focused the whole world’s attention on domestic violence. ”

—Denise Brown about the brutal murder of her sister Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994. See story, page 8.

Iraq veteran tosses first Giants pitch

The ceremonial “first pitch” honors at the Giants vs. Dodgers recent game at AT&T Park went to Manuel (Manny) Mendoza-Valencia, an Iraq war veteran and a recipient of a Sentinel of Freedom Scholarship.

U.S. Army Sgt. Mendoza-Valencia lost both of his legs after an Improvised Explosive Device detonated while he was on board an armored personnel carrier in Sadr City, Iraq. The Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation assists disabled veterans like Mendoza-Valencia in their efforts to become productive, self-sufficient, integrated members of this community upon their return to civilian life.

Mendoza-Valencia was assisted in the first pitch by Chris Truebridge of Shapell Homes. Shapell donated an apartment in San Ramon for Mendoza-Valencia to live rent free during his scholarship.

To learn more, visit www.sentinelsoffreedom.org.

Light up a tree to honor loved ones

Hope Hospice of the East Bay has set dates for its 22nd annual Tree of Lights ceremonies. Each light on every tree is symbolic of a life and will shine in honor or memory of a friend or family member.

The tree lighting in Alamo will take place at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Alamo Women’s Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. The Hope Hospice tree in Blackhawk will be lit at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, on Blackhawk Road at Blackhawk Drive. There will also be a Children’s Tree in Oak Alley behind Va de Vi restaurant at 1151 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Walnut Creek.

The public is invited to the lightings, which include music and refreshments. Lights may be purchased for a suggested donation of \$20 by sending a tax-deductible check to Hospice Foundation of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523. Please note which tree you are buying a light for, and the name of the person being remembered or honored. Credit card donations may be made by calling the foundation office at 887-5678.

New cocktail lounge for Danville

Easy 925, a new cocktail lounge, was opened last weekend at 519 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in Danville, behind Marcello’s. It is the latest venture of D. Kolin Better, who also owns Easy Lounge on Lakeshore Avenue in Oakland.

“With Easy 925, we’ll be able to introduce to a brand new audience our approach of serving carefully prepared cocktails using the freshest seasonal fruits, house-made syrups, and the highest quality liquors,” said Better. “Danville is perfect for us. We know that people here truly enjoy entertaining and being entertained, and we hope to become an integral part of the Danville lifestyle.”

Junior League collecting books

The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay Inc. is collecting new and gently used books for ages pre-K to 14 until Oct. 28 for FamiliesFirst in Concord. This is one step in the efforts of the league to create a library for the nonprofit organization, whose mission is to better the lives of children through prevention, intervention, treatment and advocacy. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used toward the purchase of books.

People can drop off donations at Rakestraw Books in Danville plus purchase books for FamiliesFirst and receive a 20 percent discount off books purchased for this cause. Prior to starting the transaction, let them know the books are for FamiliesFirst via Junior League, and Rakestraw requests cash or check. The store will hold the books for delivery.

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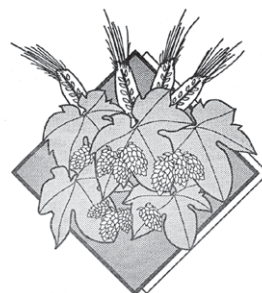


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Alamo headed to vote on incorporation

LAFCO denies request to reconsider issue of cityhood

by Geoff Gillette

Opponents of the Alamo Incorporation Movement saw their last hopes of keeping the issue off the ballot fade away Tuesday as members of the Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) denied a request to reconsider the issue.

At a special session Oct. 21 in the offices of the County Board of Supervisors, seven members of the commission and two alternates heard testimony from staff concerning the request filed by Alamo resident R. Jean Taylor.

Taylor filed the request along with an addendum following the commission's approval of the incorporation plan at a Sept 18 meeting. The request can only be made if new information can be presented.

At the start of the mid-afternoon meeting, LAFCO Chairman Rob Schroder warned the more than 50 Alamo residents in attendance that the meeting's purpose was to determine if Taylor's request was valid. He asked that any testimony given pertain to new information.

Schroder then turned it over to LAFCO Executive Officer Lou Ann Teixeira for the staff report, which was short, to the point and

damning for the opposition. Teixeira said staff examined all of the points raised in Taylor's request and found that none could be considered new information. Staff recommended the denial of both the request and the addendum.

Schroder then opened up the public hearing. More than 20 people signed up to speak, but only about 18 ended up in front of the microphone. Proponents of the measure were dominant by a nearly 2-1 margin.

Despite Schroder's warnings, most of the testimony was similar to that heard Sept 18.

After over an hour of testimony the hearing was closed and commission members weighed in. Commissioner Martin McNair, who switched his vote from a No to a Yes on Sept 18, allowing the ballot issue to be approved, said that any doubts he had initially have been assuaged.

He said the tipping point for him was the fact that members of AIM have had informal talks with both San Ramon and Walnut Creek on the issue of contracting police services. Doing so could result in a significant decrease in the annual cost of providing police support.

► Continued on page 8



Pie, anyone?

Alamo resident John Fraser sits next to the 712-pound pumpkin he harvested from his garden. Fraser grew the massive gourd from seeds he bought from growers in Oregon and Washington. He said the growers charged as much as \$5 per seed. A local moving company was hired to truck the pumpkin down to Faz where it remains on display.

GEOFF GILLETTE

Celebrate the fall season

Downtown hosting crafts festival this weekend

by Geoff Gillette

Hosts, goblins, Jedi and princesses will be walking the streets of downtown Danville this weekend as part of the annual Danville Fall Crafts Festival. Featuring 200 different artists, crafts and food booths, the festival will get under way at 10 a.m. with a costume parade on Hartz Avenue. Local merchants along Hartz will give out kid-friendly treats.

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce President Melony Newman said it has been exciting to see how the festival has grown each year. "It just keeps getting better and better," she enthused. "It is the perfect way to welcome the new season." The Chamber is partnering with the Town of Danville to sponsor the event.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday this weekend. Many artists will display their works, from photography to jewelry to woodworking. School Street will be home to a Glass Pumpkin Patch, a new addition to



Children last year enjoy wearing their costumes at the Danville Fall Crafts Festival on Hartz Avenue and trick-or-treating from merchants.

the festival. Shops will also display wares out in the open, including Leku Eder on Prospect Avenue with its Walker & Bowes Glass Pumpkin Patch.

There will be food and beverages aplenty. Booths will be set up with a variety of foodstuffs, and residents will be able to have a glass of wine or a mug of microbrew

beer at the Chamber's Beverage Garden on Hartz Avenue.

Parking restrictions will not be enforced by the town during the festival and for those not wanting to brave the busy streets a shuttle service will run between the Park and Ride at I-680 and Sycamore Valley Road for the length of the festival. ■

FILE PHOTO

New pocket park for Alamo?

Recreation committee considers new park off Iron Horse Trail

by Geoff Gillette

Unused land adjacent to the Iron Horse trail may become Alamo's newest park.

At an Oct. 2 meeting, members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for R7A discussed the possibility of purchasing a one-acre parcel of land, which is currently owned by the Contra Costa Fire Protection District.

At issue is the lot on the corner of Danville Boulevard and Hemme Avenue, which has stood vacant for some time. The Fire District purchased the property in 2005 and demolished the house that was still standing. An appraisal has put its value at around \$1 million.

Committee member Steve Mick said that he had discussed the purchase with the East Bay Regional Park District, which manages the trail. Mick said the Park District has said it would be willing to partner on the creation of the park but

not on the purchase of the land.

It is too early to have an overall plan for the land if it is acquired, but Mick said he has some ideas.

"Not too much of a vision yet, just some half-baked thoughts," he said. "Low maintenance, kind of an intersection of hiking trails and so forth. We don't know, but we would like to get a lot of community input."

Committee members directed county staff to determine if the Fire District had interest in selling the land.

R7A is a county service area for parks and recreation that operates under the umbrella of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, explained Committee Chairwoman Nancy Dommies.

"The Public Works guys work with the Board of Supervisors. We have an idea, we discuss it in committee and wait for public input," she said. "If we vote to make a recommendation we approach our District 3 supervisor." ■

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Homecoming parades through downtown Danville

Alumni, veterans, sports teams of all persuasions and the San Ramon Valley High band paraded through downtown Danville on Friday afternoon to celebrate the high school's annual fall homecoming event. The parade is enjoyed by residents as well as the high school community.

The theme of this year's homecoming was "Play Your Cards Right" and it was celebrated with class floats, from the freshmen "Go Fish" to the seniors "Texas Hold 'Em." Above, the undefeated frosh football team marches in the parade.

That night the San Ramon Valley High School Wolves defeated the Granada Matadors, 35-17, in their homecoming game.

TAKE US ALONG



The old family home

Danville residents Melanie and Michael Lewis and Doak and Christina Walker catch up on their hometown news standing in front of the first home of their great-grandparents, Lola and Pio Lommori, while attending a family reunion in Yerington, Nev. Lola and Pio lived in the home from 1939-46, when they moved to San Francisco. They took their family on a tour of Yerington that included their first home, their parents' houses, and the church where they were married.

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Community divided by Prop 8

Different views cause passionate responses by neighbors

by Geoff Gillette

There are a number of issues on the ballot in November that have sparked debate and discussion, but none of them has been as polarizing as Proposition 8, also known as the California Marriage Protection Act.

If approved, Prop 8 would amend the California state constitution to add the line, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in

California."

Gay and lesbian groups across the country set up a hue and cry over the proposition, stating that it would deny same sex couples equal rights under the law.

In the last several months the debate has grown with groups on both sides donating huge sums of money to the campaign. On the pro-side are many religious groups such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Focus on the Family and the Knights

of Columbus. Opponents include Equality Now, No on 8 and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Service Center.

Here in Danville, streets are dotted with signs both for and against, in some cases right next door to each other. Such is the case for Chad Hales and Kathy Leonard. The casual friendship the two families enjoyed has cooled significantly since the introduction of Prop 8. Each family has a pretty different view on the issue.



Voting No

For Kathy Leonard, the issue is a personal one. Her brother-in-law John has been in a committed same-sex marriage for years. "They've been married several times when they could. John and Kevin got married the first day that they could after the Supreme Court ruling," Leonard said.

The pair has adopted one child and is in the process of adopting two more. They are concerned about what could happen to their children in the event that something should happen to one of them.

"They might as well just round them up, brand them and stick them in the back of the bus."

—Kathy Leonard

Those same sorts of concerns exist for Kathy and her husband Ken. They have named her two brothers-in-law as guardians of their children and are concerned about the legal rights Kevin would have as a "domestic partner" if the worst should occur.

Legalities aside, for Kathy Leonard and her family this also comes down to basic discrimination. "They (proponents) keep saying that John and Kevin would be covered under the domestic partner law. But they wouldn't be married. That is a segregated, 'Separate but Equal' group. They might as well just round them up, brand them and stick them in the back of the bus."

Leonard said there are two families in their neighborhood who have come out in support of Prop 8. Since the issue came up, things have been very strained with those families and she doesn't see that changing.

"We view this as a total attack on our family by a powerful, wealthy religious right who want to relegate our family to second-class citizens," she said. "It's an outrage and that relationship (with the neighbors) has changed for good." ■



Voting Yes

Chad Hales feels the issue is personal because it impacts the basic identity of marriage. "Fundamentally, I think it's a good thing because it defines marriage as being between a man and woman." He added, "For me, what I think it comes down to is there's something unique ... that it's a biological fact that our human family has grown through the unique ability to bring children into the world."

Opponents of Prop 8 often ask what effect same sex marriage has on those who are against it. Hales said he agrees that there would not be an immediate result if Prop 8 fails. "The effects are difficult to calculate. My belief is that it will have more of a long term effect on the way society views the institution of marriage."

Hales said he disagrees with the assertion that Prop 8 is about discrimination. "The word 'discrimination' comes so loaded in a debate like this. It says you hate people, you want to oppress them. The reality is I don't feel that way. I have gay friends. I deal with gay clients. I'm glad to hear that there's domestic partnership law. I'm just trying to maintain the definition of union that has a special meaning."

He also denies charges of bigotry aimed at those in favor of the proposition. "I will not treat anybody with any less respect or care because they are a homosexual." Although he did say that he does not condone that lifestyle choice.

The divisive nature of the debate has made things difficult in his neighborhood. Hales said he is concerned about the relationship they have with the Leonards and the effect this has had. "We're trying to support the proposition in a way that's deeply respectful. I'm sorry about the way it's making them feel but it's not the intention." ■

"It's a biological fact that our human family has grown through the unique ability to bring children into the world."

—Chad Hales

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Sister's murder sparks activism

Denise Brown speaks on 'toxic love' at Rebuilding Lives Luncheon

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Denise Brown says she knows her sister Nicole Brown Simpson was murdered by her ex-husband O.J. Simpson, although a jury failed to convict him of the brutal 1994 crime.

"Deep down in my heart I know it," she said.

Brown has described herself as "just a mom from Laguna Beach" until that June day 14 years ago. After the murder Brown committed herself to raising awareness against domestic violence, which kills three women every day in the United States. She was the keynote speaker at Monday's 16th annual Rebuilding Lives Luncheon at the Concord Hilton, sponsored by Stand! Against Domestic Violence.

No one in her family had any idea that Nicole was being battered, Brown said in an interview before the luncheon. She remembered being in Nicole's bathroom with her one day and seeing a photo in a drawer of Nicole with a black eye.

"I said, 'My God, Nick, what is this?'" Brown recalled. "She said the makeup studio did it—he was making a movie then. And I said, 'It looks so real!' and put it back."

When Nicole was murdered, Brown told police there had been no violence in the Simpson marriage. Then she read Nicole's diary.

"She lived through 17 years of verbal, emotional and physical abuse," said Brown. "She lived a nightmare."

"It's not just us—there are a lot of families out there who don't know what is happening," she added.

Brown said she has found, after 13 years of speaking with women who have experienced abusive relationships, that they all have three things in common. "Hope—they hope things will be better—

Stop the violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but the problem continues every day of every month.

Stand! Against Domestic Violence operates two shelters, which serve for emergency stays and for transitional housing after a woman has made the determination to remove herself from her violent situation. Due to a funding shortage only one of the shelters is currently open.

This confidential location is also where the organization's crisis line operates.

"We get 7,000 to 8,000 calls a year from victims," said Irit Umani, director of Intervention Services, adding that most calls come during the day. "They call when it's safe for them to call."

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shame and fear."

They need to be educated to eliminate the shame, she said, explaining that the batterer chips away at their self esteem until the victims truly believe that no one can love them and they deserve the treatment they get.

For the batterer it's all about power and control, she noted.

"Girls need to be educated, 'You're the one who needs to walk away,'" she said. "The sad thing is women will jump into bed with a man after one week and then it's an emotional feeling. They sleep with them before they know who they

are. Then—they think they can change them. But we can't change them."

Brown said she is hoping to start a national mural project, where artists would paint scenes on buildings to publicize the problem and the groups in the community that help.

"Nicole came to me in a dream," she said, explaining that this happened twice before, soon after her murder. This time Nicole told her to do murals.

"It could be a healing, empowering mural," said Brown. "The arts are healing." She thinks her Murals Around the World project could be done at little cost and provide important publicity for groups that help victims of domestic violence.

Stand! is doing wonderful work, she said, but the organization is not on the tip of everyone's tongue like other groups. This needs to change so women know how to get help instantly.

The Rebuilding Lives Luncheon also had a tribute to Catalina Torres, a Stand! success story who was murdered by her cousin's estranged ex-husband during a domestic violence dispute in September. He also fatally shot Martinez police Sgt. Paul Starzyk, who was recognized at the luncheon as well. Torres' tearful sisters addressed the crowd and told how important the organization had been in Catalina's life.

The annual Rollie Mullens Award went to the Contra Costa Office of Bay Area Legal Aid.

"Nicole focused the whole world's attention on domestic violence," Brown told the 500 people at the luncheon. "The two things I have learned in the last 13 years are, one, that I'm not alone in my loss; and, two, I'm not alone in my determination to eradicate domestic violence." ■



Denise Brown talks about her sister Nicole Brown Simpson and how her murder spurred Denise to dedicate her life to fighting domestic violence.



Empty places at the table represent the nine people killed this year in Contra Costa County due to domestic violence, including Catarina Torres, at left, and Sgt. Paul Starzyk.



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Alamo

► Continued from page 5

"They could end up having a 20-30 percent buffer in one of their largest budget items. That's big," McNair said.

Other commission members who had seemed to be on the fence in September had also been swayed during the intervening weeks. Commissioner David Piepho said he had taken the time to become better informed on the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis and other issues of incorporation and he did not think any new information had been brought forth.

When the roll call vote was taken the count stood at 6-0, with Helen Allen abstaining. Allen did not comment on why she chose not to participate in the vote.

The issue now moves on to the County Board of Supervisors. The Board will meet Tuesday, Oct. 28, to examine LAFCO's recommendation. If they rule in favor of the recommendation, the incorporation initiative will be decided in a March 3, 2009, special election. ■

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



All the news that's fit to e-mail

How do you receive your news? It's been well publicized that vice presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin could not say what newspaper or magazine she reads or what Web site she visits for her news. Maybe she was nervous or perhaps she has a staff member present her with synopses and it truly does just appear.

I start each morning with my two local daily newspapers. I couldn't eat breakfast without Chronicle columnist Jon Carroll. In the evenings and weekends I read weeklies that come in the mail—the Washington Post National Weekly Edition, the Economist and the New Yorker—although I often set them aside for a few hours, or a few days. I assume this is what people do with the Danville Weekly—glance at it quickly, then perhaps put it aside for a more convenient time or stuff it into their tote bag to read at a soccer game.

We're told more and more people go online for their news, and indeed there's nothing like the Internet for breaking stories. People at work don't take breaks in a coffee room anymore; they stay at their computers and check out Web sites. News hasn't changed but, more and more, its method of delivery is going online. My most dependable e-mail buddy is the New York Times, which sends me its headlines every morning, rain or shine.

Now the Danville Weekly is going to e-mail people headlines with our Express online edition. Once a week, Express will appear in the in-box of anyone who requests it. Express is a quick-read summation of the top four

most recent news stories, plus some Danville area events that people might want to check out. A click on the item will take readers to www.DanvilleWeekly.com to read the story in its entirety. The Web site contains all the Weekly stories from every edition, plus a Town Square forum for readers to make comments, movie reviews and much more. The Web site is also the place to add a Calendar item to run online and to be picked up for our print edition.

Express is a quick summation of the top four most recent news stories, plus some Danville area events to check out.

Our Express readers also have the opportunity to register for news alerts. I love this part because I find it frustrating when there is breaking news in the Danville area and it has to wait, sometimes longer than a week, to get into our newspaper. When that Friday night earthquake struck recently, I checked the USGS Web site for the stats, called Alamo Safeway to learn about damage, wrote the story and put it onto the Web site within 20 minutes. But did anyone know it was there? Now I can send out an alert.

We haven't turned into the paperless society that was predicted in the 1960s. On the contrary, as last week's

Economist noted, when computer use skyrocketed so did the use of paper. Global usage more than doubled in offices during the last two decades of the 20th century as printing became cheaper and easier, although e-mail did change the amount of paper used for correspondence.

But in 2001, paper usage began to decline in the U.S. Younger employees are more comfortable working totally on screen and technology has advanced enough that storage is dependable. People now go online to pay bills, find a recipe, print out IRS forms and airline tickets, plus to look up everything from the spelling of a word to the history of paper. Words, photos and spreadsheets can easily be shared online, with the co-worker across the room or a colleague across the globe. And people increasingly are getting their news online.

We still love to produce our Danville Weekly print edition. There's something about holding an actual printed newspaper that I love. The feel of the newsprint. The ability to mark it up or tear out something to save or read more thoroughly later. Or put a sticky on a story and leave it for my husband. I sure hope newspapers are printed forever—or at least for the duration of my lifetime.

When you are running for vice president and someone asks you how you receive your news, I hope you respond, "From the Danville Weekly." And I hope you would soon add, "And Express."

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

Measure WW seeks trail funds

Measure WW seeks to extend a bond approved 20 years ago that would allow the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire land, complete capital projects, and preserve existing open space in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The measure will need a two-thirds majority to be approved.

Founded in 1934 during the Great Depression, the Park District took on the job of preserving open space in the area and making it accessible to residents. It is one of the largest regional park agencies in the U.S. and has preserved more than 98,000 acres of open space in 65 regional parks.

Measure WW, an extension of the 1988 Measure AA, will generate \$500 million over the next 20 years. At the same time, homeowners will not see their taxes increase as a result. Park District officials say they expect the assessment to remain at \$10 per each \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Of the funds raised, \$375 million will go toward existing projects and acquisition; \$125 million will go toward the cities in the park district. Danville will receive \$1.9 million.

Danville has already received \$99,000 in Measure AA funds, which were used to improve Hap Magee Ranch Park and Green Valley Elementary School. AA funds were also directly responsible for the preservation of 34,000 acres of open space and the creation of 100 miles of new trails.

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

- \$1.4 million—Complete trail corridors between Las Trampas, Sycamore Valley and Mount Diablo.
- \$8.3 million—Establish interpretive visitor facility and indoor meeting space to serve the San Ramon Valley in Las Trampas. Also develop access to recently acquired properties including staging, trails and camping areas.

• \$925,000—Acquire lands to complete Sycamore Valley Open Space boundaries and trail connections, both inside the park and to Mount Diablo.

• \$875,000 to acquire and develop regional trail connecting Tassajara Creek in Dublin to Mount Diablo.

See the complete lists at www.ebparks.org.

Opponents to Measure WW include a group called Better East Bay Parks, which contends that the Park District isn't a good steward of the land it owns and manages.

"We find it bizarre that the EBRPD supports bicycle recreation on its urban parks and paved paths, but bans it from 85 percent of its back country trails," said Better East Bay Parks member John Grigsby.

He added that bulldozers and grazing cattle have caused destruction and they are employed by the park district.

—Geoff Gillette

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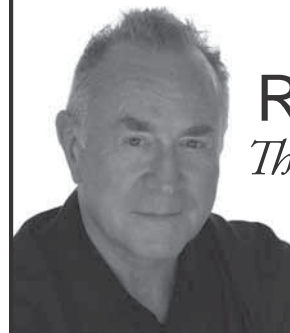
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Pulitzer Prize winner, Richard Rhodes, is writing a fourth volume of nuclear history, "The Twilight of the Bombs," about the post-Cold War years. He has been a host and correspondent for public television's *Frontline* and *American Experience* and is an affiliate of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

Upcoming in the Series:

Dr. Morton Grosser, *Flight of Imagination*
Thursday, January 15 at 7:30pm

Bob Borchers, *Innovation: The Search for New Ideas*
Thursday, March 5 at 7:30pm

David M. Kennedy, *A Tale of Three Cities:
How the United States Won World War II*
Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm

Amory Lovins, *Oil Solutions*
Thursday, April 30 at 7:30pm

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Keep Danville incumbents

Four candidates are running for three seats on the Danville Town Council: incumbents Newell Arnerich, Candace Anderson and Mike Doyle; and challenger Marianne Bordogna. After carefully watching the Danville political scene for the last three-and-a-half years we think the incumbents have proven to be effective leaders, working well with town staff for the good of the town with a tight budget while the population continues to grow. They share a vision for the town, including fiscal responsibility, protection of open space and improving transportation.

Marianne Bordogna says residents feel the town leaders do not listen to them but we have observed the incumbents being accessible and responsive to concerns and complaints. We are glad that Bordogna entered the race to make it a real contest and to cause everyone to examine their goals and positions. If she is not elected perhaps she might want to serve on a commission to learn more about the intricacies of the town government.

Mayor Andersen has garnered attention for her support of state Proposition 8, which seeks to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry. Nonetheless her tenure with the town has been one of solid service. The experience she has gained in Danville government since joining the council in 2003 will make her valuable as important decisions are made regarding the redevelopment of the Veterans Hall and the Danville Hotel property.

Buchanan for Assembly

California's two biggest concerns as we elect a new person to represent the 15th Assembly District are the \$15.2 billion budget deficit and education. Both candidates have financial expertise and are supporters of education: School Board Trustee Joan Buchanan, the Democratic nominee, and San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson, a Republican.

Both pride themselves in having "reached across the aisle" during their successful terms after taking office when the school district and the city of San Ramon were rife with personnel and financial problems. They were instrumental in establishing working relationships and in improving credit ratings in their institutions.

We are endorsing Buchanan, due to her 18 years in public office and the fact that she could continue her statewide work in education if elected to serve in Sacramento. California Superintendent of Public Education Delaine Eastin encouraged Buchanan to run for the office.

We disagree with Wilson's pledge not to raise taxes because this gets any discussion off to a negative start when any and all solutions to our problems need to at least be put on the table.

Buchanan's work with the developers of Dougherty Valley to ensure quality facilities for that new population and as operations director with Delta Dental show an ability to approach problems creatively, which is the only way to go in solving our state budget crisis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for true fiscal conservatives

Dear Editor:

True Democrats and some false "Republicans" precipitated today's financial crises, state and nationwide. From outrageous public-employee compensation schemes to 1977's "Community Reinvestment Act" (and its subsequent expansions and cover-ups), conniving politicians have socialized risk while privatizing benefits. They've enriched special-interest backers and themselves—while buying votes with your money.

Reliably liberal Democrat and earmark enthusiast Jerry McNerney, for example, scores 95 percent with left-wing "Americans for Democratic Action," exceeding even Barbara Lee's 90 percent rating. Appreciative unions and other liberal outfits have stuffed McNerney's campaign treasury.

The National Association of Realtors, apparently also expecting McNerney favors, has spent \$510,000 promoting his campaign—hence, cascades of McNerney mailers.

Meanwhile, self-acknowledged moral liberal and self-alleged "fiscal conservative" Joan Buchanan, after 18 years of school-board activism supporting radical California Teachers Association objectives, wants a State Assembly seat. Buchanan's preposterous commercials claim she'll tackle California's budget mess, "with a record ... of watching every penny," and that she'll "take our priorities to Sacramento."

She's watched BILLIONS of taxpayer pennies vanish in overpriced building boondoggles and unmerited teacher-union raises. The priorities she'd take to Sacramento are those of labor unions craving more unaffordable giveaways.

CTA's "Gold Award" has salut-

ed Buchanan's spendthrift maneuvers. And she's collecting so much special-interest campaign money that she declined allowable limits for ballot-pamphlet statements—so, no statement.

By far, the better Congressional and Assembly alternatives are two genuine fiscal conservatives—former Assemblyman and Board of Equalization member Dean Andal and present San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson.

Mike Arata, Danville

Correcting Alamo errors

Dear Editor:

At the Sept. 18 Local Agency Formation Commission hearing on Alamo incorporation the following errors went uncorrected.

1) Claim: A town will need a firehouse. Fact: Fire protection services will be provided by existing providers.

2) Claim: A town adds a level of government and extra bureaucracy. Fact: Incorporation transfers services and responsibilities from the county government to a town government. For example: With incorporation, you will get a building permit from the town of Alamo; you will not have to go to Martinez to get a second one from the county.

3) Claim: The new town will just contract for most municipal services back to the county, so why have a town? Fact: The town can contract with any number of service providers, including private companies, using competitive bidding. Given the labor costs within the county, the county may not be a competitive bidder.

4) Claim: A town will need a town hall. Fact: A town government can lease commercial space to house town employees.

5) Claim: We don't know what we're going to have to pay the

► Continued on page 11

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 or mail to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526. 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 Fox Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



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Letters

► Continued from page 10

city council. Fact: State law specifies how much elected council members are paid, which for a town the size of Alamo is a maximum of \$300 per month or less.

Incorporation is complex and often confusing, but it doesn't help when citizens spread misinformation and confusion, especially when presenting testimony to a county agency.

Alamo citizens: Please take the time to read ALL the information. Learn the facts before you form and voice your opinion. Relevant Web sites: www.contracostalafco.org, www.alamoinc.org, www.alamocommunity.org.

Charla Gabert, Alamo

Beware of Alamo incorporation

Dear Editor:

Simply put, the commercial tax base in Alamo is miniscule (i.e., the major store does not collect tax on food). Homeowners will be footing most all bills, small and large. Emergencies expenses will fall on homeowners. Most may require elections to vote and pay for repairs on streets a mile away. Potholes linger in many other incorporated towns.

A surplus of \$200,000 or \$300,000 will hardly be enough for a major emergency. Proponents of incorporation have underestimated the cost of a sufficiently staffed sheriff's department. They used minimum staffing to make the figures look acceptable.

Maybe it's not perfect, but the county has done a fine job in servicing our community. Don't suddenly expect perfection in running our own town. The headaches will only be more local and we may all need the aspirins.

It's been a great town. Why toy with Mother Nature? Unless you are really sure, Alamo incorporation deserves a "NO" vote.

Beulah Yalkut Schiller, Alamo

Shake roofs combustible

Dear Editor:

White Gate residents who are being forced to use only shake for roof replacement might be interested in contacting the South Lake Tahoe fire district. The 200-plus homes that are being rebuilt, after last year's devastating fire, are not allowed to have shake roofs. They are considered to be extremely combustible because any fire retardant is quickly destroyed by sunlight.

Frances Osborne, Alamo

Refreshing story

Dear Editor:

Danville is a "Great Place" to live. When you hear about all the bad things going on in this world, I just wanted to share a refreshing story that happened to me last week. At a local gas station, I dropped my wallet when filling up my car with gas. About an hour later, I received a phone call from a number I did not recognize on my cell phone. The voice at the other end said that he had found my wallet and was calling me to return it. I was elated and relieved to receive this wonderful phone call. Losing all your credit cards, driver's license and other important "stuff" that is in your wallet is a frightening thought in this "wacky" world that we live. This is a testament to the high quality of people that live in our great town.

Thank you to this "Angel" that returned my wallet. It restores my belief that there are many great and honest people in this world. Unfortunately, you don't hear enough about them.

Mike L. Mc Colgan, Danville

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ONLINE READER POLL

Give your opinion at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Do you support Prop 8 to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry?

Results from last week:

Should Alamo incorporate?

✓ **Need more information:** 50.73%

No: 10.24%

Undecided: 1.95%

Yes: 37.07%

Total votes: 205

Code of ethics The Danville Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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ELECTION PREVIEW

Voters will decide on everything from park funding to preside

DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Newell Arnerich

What is your vision of downtown Danville? What will you do to keep shoppers coming to the downtown?

We have been able to keep our focus on downtown Danville and continue to revitalize "Old Town" with preservation of historic structures, new and remodeled buildings and new businesses. As mayor and council member, I continue to support Discover Danville Association and its Town co-sponsored business promotion campaign, which is focusing on Old Town and quality special events to encourage families to enjoy our fine unique shopping experience. The north end of Old Town is moving further in the planning stages for extending the "Old Town" streetscape standards and improvements to encourage redevelopment. Along with economic solutions, we need to continue to improve and maximize downtown public parking.

What would you like to see in the redevelopment of the Veterans Memorial Building?

The development of the new Veteran's Hall and Senior Center in Old Town Danville over the next two years will afford us an opportunity to create a long lasting gathering place and a first class facility honoring our Veterans. Our senior community will be well served by the new accessible facility afforded by the gracious support of our Veterans groups. This building can also serve to demonstrate our commitment to green building technologies and play a role in reducing energy consumption with the incorporation of smart green building technologies. In addition, unlike most communities, we save our money before starting capital improvement projects. We have saved over \$5.25 million to build the new Veteran's Hall and Community Center.

How would you want to represent Danville regionally?

Regional leadership is essential in monitoring the reoccurring threat of suburban sprawl in Tassajara Valley and surrounding areas. Danville did not happen by accident; it was carefully planned and will need to be carefully guided by the council on a continuing basis. I have served on the southwest Regional Urban Limit Line Measure J Committee seeking input from our residents and surrounding communities on maintaining the critical urban growth boundary. In addition, I served on the Tri-valley Transportation Council, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Southwest Area Transportation Committee, League of California Cities Commission on Housing, Community and Economic Development and the Tri-valley Affordable Housing Committee. Danville must continue to stay involved at all levels of regional development. What happens in other communities has a direct impact on our quality of life in Danville.

What ideas do you have to make Danville more environmentally friendly?

We are beginning a study of the Town's public buildings, parks, vehicles, etc., to set a standard for a minimum of 50 percent reduction in energy usage by 2012 and an ultimate goal of "0" consumption by 2020. I believe we can achieve this with a retrofit of our facilities with solar systems, solar powered LED park lighting and other new technologies. Based upon this model, the Town will be able to demonstrate to our residents the success of using alternative energy solutions. In addition our new Vets Hall and Senior Center is being planned as a LEED certified Silver Level green building. At the same time we are working on increasing our vehicle fleet mileage efficiency by 50 percent.

In your view, what is the most pressing issue facing Danville in the coming years?

Our small Town continues to enjoy its unique rural setting and high standards as a small comfortable place. With limited resources, each decision is carefully planned and cautiously undertaken. From the play structures at Osage Park to the seasonal banners in Old Town and the field improvements at Sycamore Park, all are looked at with the same careful consideration. I believe the impact of the state's budget crisis on our limited resources will remain a principal area of concern while trying to ensure our high level of services. E-business of Town services will continue to be a high priority in helping improve customer service in a cost effective manner. We want to provide better and faster response to government services and information.



Occupation: Incumbent, architect

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees, UC Berkeley

Experience: Danville Mayor 2004, 1999; Danville Town Council 1993-present; Danville Design Review Board 1990-95; Danville Planning Commission 1991-95, chairman 1993; Operation Welcome Home, Honoring returning Veterans, co-founder; Citizens Advisory Committee on SRVUSD Facilities (Measure D Recommendation)

Candace Andersen

What is your vision of downtown Danville? What will you do to keep shoppers coming to the downtown?

My vision of downtown Danville is to build upon what we have now—a mix of historic buildings complemented by new construction, with a strong retail emphasis, in a pedestrian friendly and beautifully maintained environment. We have some exciting projects coming forward to enhance the downtown including the redevelopment of the Danville Hotel and Times Buildings; renovation of the Veteran's Hall; and landscaping and sidewalk improvements to the north end of Hartz. To keep shoppers coming downtown we need to ensure that they know what's available. Special events and our new Web site launching later this year will do just that.

What would you like to see in the redevelopment of the Veterans Memorial Building?

The Veterans Hall has played a significant role in our community for the past 83 years. We must find the appropriate balance of preserving its historic elements while expanding and renovating it to meet the needs of both veterans and the community at large, especially our seniors who will be using it daily for their programs. It is also very important that we keep our redevelopment costs for this building within our budget. The Town has appropriated \$5 million and the veterans plan to raise another \$3 million. I believe we can accomplish something great within this amount.

How would you want to represent Danville regionally?

I will continue to do what I have for the past five years, which is to work collaboratively with our neighboring jurisdictions. I regularly meet with the mayors in Contra Costa and the Tri-Valley cities to bring solutions to problems in our region. The decisions made by one jurisdiction can affect all of us in the region. We must continue to work together on issues related to land use, traffic, transportation, economic development and the environment. Fortunately, we have committees in place to address these areas of concern and I look forward to continuing to serve on many of them.

What ideas do you have to make Danville more environmentally friendly?

As leaders we have a stewardship over Danville to ensure that its resources are available for future generations. We must keep implementing "green policies" as a governmental entity and make our citizens aware of opportunities so that they can also look for ways to conserve. Some ways we are reducing our carbon footprint include: reduced permit fees for solar installation; studying opportunities to add solar panels to Town-owned buildings; purchasing hybrids and more fuel efficient vehicles for police and maintenance; adding recycling bins downtown; passing an ordinance for the recycling of construction debris; encouraging more use of reusable shopping bags.

In your view, what is the most pressing issue facing Danville in the coming years?

Two months ago I would have said that it was dealing with the impacts of growth around us. Especially, protecting Danville's Urban Limit Line, working with San Ramon to ensure that any development in the Tassajara Valley be consistent with this voter-approved measure and not negatively affect Danville. However, at this time I am concerned about ensuring the fiscal stability of Danville given the Country and the State's economic crises. We have always passed a balanced budget and kept close to 30 percent of our operating budget in reserve, but we need to be prepared for future losses of revenue.



Occupation: Incumbent, attorney, licensed to practice law in California and Hawaii

Education: Bachelor's degree in public policy

Experience: Danville Town Council Member (2003-present); community volunteer for schools, Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Scouts, Church Youth Group; former member of the Morgan Hill City Council

Marianne

What is your vision of downtown Danville? What will you do to keep shoppers coming to the downtown?

My vision of Danville resembles a vibrant downtown—people strolling, stopping for coffee, and shoppers downtown, we need to encourage people to wish to purchase locally (via farmers markets) to our marketplace. Discover Danville is a key to the Town. We also need to incentivize new businesses to provide added exposure for businesses and services reflecting the "Danville experience." *What would you like to see in the redevelopment of the Veterans Memorial Building?*

This is a project near to my heart. I helped build and then managed the meeting place for all veterans' events as the town's social center, offering rooms and full catering supporting community events capable of seating 500 people—not a dance floor! It's in high demand, and I booked a year in advance for wedding sports banquets, etc. Danville has the potential to create such a "heart" in our town that reflects the needs of our veterans. It's exciting to be a part of it! *How would you want to represent Danville regionally?*

Danville is represented in many committees/agencies, e.g., planning, development, emergency, homeland security, etc. However, we need to leverage and engage the talent of our residents employed from Silicon Valley to San Francisco to provide new solutions to our town's challenges. What challenge are we facing and how do we best address it? Why not hold "town meetings" in related fields, of some of the best minds in the area? A call to arms—reaching out to our residents, creating ownership that can carry us forward, as previous leaders have done. *What ideas do you have to make Danville more environmentally friendly?*

Can we lower or eliminate building codes for "green" building, e.g., solar panels? Can we educate the public on available rebates? Can we seek out grant money for converting buildings, lighting, schools, etc., to solar power? *What happens when electric cars come to Danville? ... how are they re-charged and where? serviced? Are those services/companies in Danville—or in neighboring cities? Can we plan for that evolution? Can we encourage student input in addressing these issues? There is a lot of potential here—and we happen to have a lot of untapped talent. *In your view, what is the most pressing issue facing Danville in the coming years?**

There are two major issues facing Danville while protecting our local coffers from future growth in our town. We need to be prepared for both and have a response under various possible scenarios. We need to define the best solutions together to define the best solutions.

EW

dent

This year's election season has been a long one, beginning with hotly contested primaries not only on the national scene but locally. Now, incumbent U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney is facing challenger Republican Dean Andal to represent the 11th Congressional District. In the 10th District, which includes Alamo, U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher is facing Republican Challenger Nicholas Gerber.

The Danville Weekly is focusing on the four candidates running for three seats on the Danville Town Council; the race to represent the 15th Assembly District; and Measure WW (see page 9).

le Bordogna

anville? What will you do to keep shop-

s an updated Norman Rockwell paint-
ice cream, meeting friends. To draw
understand which products/services shop-
survey, etc.), then attract those busi-
Danville is a good marketing tool for
shoppers to choose LOCAL—whether
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development of the Veterans Memorial

My dad was a VFW Post Commander,
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ng Danville: 1) managing our budget,
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enarios. We also need to improve our
s, the county and Sacramento, working
s for all.



Occupation: Real estate broker

Education: M.A. Edinboro University of PA; M.S. Golden Gate University

Experience: Former telecom & management consultant executive; background in operations, engineering, planning, software development, marketing and sales; managed organizations & budgets of \$100M-plus; member of local, county and national real estate associations; member and previous board member of PBWC, The Wellness Community, Women and Leadership Network

Mike Doyle

What is your vision of downtown Danville? What will you do to keep shoppers coming to the downtown?

We have a unique downtown that sets Danville apart and makes people want to visit. I envision the Town continuing with several initiatives including:

- Building improvements such as public parking, public facilities, streetscape beautification, plazas and lighting;
- Promoting development standards that maintain our special character while allowing for careful redevelopment of key sites;
- Continuing strong working relationships with our Chamber of Commerce and Discover Danville Association; and
- Streamlining the permitting and plan review process.

Our new "Shop Local" campaign will attract shoppers by letting them know what's available downtown, while showing the region the uniqueness that Danville has to offer.

What would you like to see in the redevelopment of the Veterans Memorial Building?

Our Veterans Memorial Building has been located in the heart of our downtown since 1925. I'm proud to be a veteran, and I was proud to support committing \$5.2 million to acquire and revitalize this site, to show appreciation to past, current and future generations of veterans. I favor a project that preserves some of the history of the site while expanding and modernizing the building to improve its function. The new facility will be the hub of veterans activities for the San Ramon Valley; provide an opportunity to better meet the facility needs of our growing senior population; add needed community meeting space; and attract more people downtown.

How would you want to represent Danville regionally?

As a council member and three time mayor, I've represented Danville in many capacities—regionally and state-wide. I strive to familiarize myself with the issues and how they potentially affect Danville, while advocating solutions of greatest benefit to our community and quality of life. The positive working relationships I've developed throughout the region and the state allow me to be an effective voice on the Town's behalf. Currently I serve on the Board of the League of California cities, where I work to promote legislation helpful to Danville and other cities, while protecting the vital sources of revenue that allow us to deliver critical local services.

What ideas do you have to make Danville more environmentally friendly?

The Town is currently working to implement AB 32, which requires reducing GHG to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Toward this end, there are a number of things that we can and are doing:

- Planning for how to retrofit Town facilities for solar power;
- Reducing the amount of solid waste generated and promoting more recycling;
- Reducing water consumption at Town-owned facilities;
- Reducing vehicle emissions through increasing the use of hybrid and more fuel efficient Town vehicles;
- Considering "green" development standards; and
- Improving trail systems to promote more biking/walking.

In your view, what is the most pressing issue facing Danville in the coming years?

The fact that Danville is located within a growing and changing region means that the Town cannot entirely control its own destiny. Danville has a history of careful planning and adherence to our adopted General Plan. But the Town continues to be significantly affected by land use decisions being made by surrounding jurisdictions and the resultant impacts upon our transportation infrastructure, facilities and quality of life. Other pressing issues include:

- Helping to care for and promote our youth.
- Planning for how to better serve our aging population.
- Controlling public safety costs while continuing to provide excellent police services.
- Continuing efforts to revitalize our Downtown.



Occupation:

Incumbent, retired

Education: Two years of college

Experience: League of California Cities Board of Directors; lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars; lifetime member of American Legion; lifetime member of Berlin Airlift Association; Board of Directors "Sentinels of Freedom"

STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 15

Joan Buchanan, Democrat

Alamo resident Joan Buchanan, a native of San Francisco, was a rising star with Delta Dental where she worked as an underwriter and eventually became a department director. When she withdrew from the workplace to raise her five children, she began to focus her energies on education and was elected to the board of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in 1990.

She thinks work needs to be done in Sacramento to help education, including training teachers and effective principals, and closing the achievement gap among students.

"I would be a change agent in Sacramento," she said. "In every job in my life I have affected positive change ... I am good at staying focused on the job at hand. I couldn't care less if I get credit. I'm willing to work with all people to try to understand the issues."

During her 18 years, she has helped the district move through a financial crisis, negotiate labor contracts with teachers and employees and develop budgets. She also wrote the contract with developers to assure good standards were met in their construction of schools to educate the new population in Dougherty Valley.

Buchanan says she wants to use her skills honed at Delta Dental and on the school board to work in Sacramento. She said she believes in building relationships, and understanding people's needs. In her tenure as school trustee, she worked with California superintendent of Schools Delaine Easton, who encouraged her to run for state office.

"When you can talk from experience, people listen," said Buchanan. "I've reached across party lines to get the job done. I do my homework; I can compromise on points without compromising my values."



Background: School board member since 1990; former director Commercial Operations Delta Dental; California Teachers Association State Gold Award; Alamo Rotary Club Citizen of the Year; soccer coach

Priorities if elected: Education; health-care; environment (the delta)

Key endorsements: California Teachers Association; California Professional Firefighters; Police Officers Research Association of California

Abram Wilson, Republican

San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson is campaigning as a fiscal conservative who wants to use less spending not higher taxes to solve California's budgetary problems. He notes that as mayor he balanced San Ramon's city budget every year and created a reserve.

Wilson says his time on San Ramon commissions and the council have taught him that communication is key in working together with others, and he was able to practice diplomacy when facing a dysfunctional City Council in 2002.

"I hope to bring the skills I have to Sacramento to connect the dots," he said. "I look forward to crossing the aisle."

He pointed out that his background in banking would help him solve the state's budget problems, noting that San Ramon's credit rating has improved with him at the helm. He thinks it is important to change the tax structure in California to bring in more businesses and retain those that are here.

He is proud of the unified front he and the other four Tri-Valley mayors presented in Washington, D.C., and said they were the envy of the others at the Mayors Conference.

Wilson said education is one of his priorities and he is committed to bringing music to the schools. "Music makes us civilized," said Wilson, who was an opera singer. "Those who participate in arts have better academic scores."

He thinks California should keep the two-thirds needed to pass the State budget but would like to see a two-year cycle. "That would give a year to breathe and to analyze properly," he said.

He also said he is "not afraid to touch the third rail."

"If you need a helping hand, grab your own wrist," said Wilson.



Background; Mayor of San Ramon; chairman of the Contra Costa County Mayors Conference; San Ramon Arts Council; San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission; Vice President of Wells Fargo Bank; U.S. Army veteran

Priorities if elected: Economy; transportation; education

Key endorsements: Assemblyman Guy Houston; California Taxpayer Protection Committee; Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Police warn of ongoing scams

Danville residents are being warned to be on the lookout for some old scams and some new ones designed to bilk money from unsuspecting people. Danville Police Department Sgt. Dan Hoffman said they are seeing three different schemes being used on people in town.

The first targets users of craigslist, eBay and other online auction sites. A person lists an item online and the scammer purchases it. They send the seller a check for far more than the asking price, requesting that the additional funds be used to pay shipping and then the seller wire transfers the remainder. So the seller ships off their item, wires cash, and finds out the buyer's check has bounced. The victims are out the shipping cost and whatever cash they sent by wire.

The second is another online scam. Hoffman said victims will receive an e-mail claiming they have won a lottery in Australia, Canada or Jamaica. The victim is instructed that the funds can't be released unless they pay the taxes on the winnings up front. Again a wire transfer is requested and then the scammer disappears.

Hoffman said the third scam is somewhat seasonal and appears to be connected with a gypsy group that moves through the area. The victim is contacted by a person pretending to be a security official with a bank. They tell the victim that they are investigating a bank teller accused of stealing.

The victim is asked to go to that specific teller and make a cash withdrawal. The cash is then given to the "security officer" as evidence.

Hoffman said these schemes prey heavily on the elderly. Danville police spend time with elderly groups in order to teach them about these sorts of scams and help them be prepared. "If they seem too good to be true...they probably are," said Hoffman.

Online scams are difficult to track and prosecute because they cross state and sometimes international boundaries. Any person receiving a suspicious e-mail or phone call is urged to contact the Danville police at 314-3410.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, Oct. 13

- Malicious telephone calls on 600 block of Hartley Dr. at 10:04 a.m.
- Animal cruelty on 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 1:39 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 300 block of Remington Loop at 2:37 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on Calle Arroyo/ Diablo Rd. at 3:26 p.m.
- Shoplifting, arrest, on 300 block of Railroad Ave. at 8:37 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 8000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:48 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

- Identity theft on 1000 block of Richard Lane at 2:04 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries on 1400 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:31 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on La Quest Dr./Via Hermosa at 9:39 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

- Vehicle accident with property damage on Danville Blvd./Hartz Ave. at 10:31 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Diablo Rd./Hartz Ave. at 11:44 a.m.
- Residential burglary on 400 block of Alisal Ct. at 4:14 p.m.
- Petty theft on 100 block of Wild Flower Ct. at 5:14 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 16

- Vandalism on 100 block of Hardester Ct. at 9:54 a.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:47 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on W.

Prospect Ave./Railroad Ave. at 1:02 p.m.

- Malicious telephone calls on 100 block of Casablanca St. at 6:37 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17

- Vehicle traffic stop on Hartz Ave./ School St. at 4:27 a.m.
- Petty theft on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 12:09 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop on Front St./S. Diablo at 12:20 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Old Orchard Dr./ Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:28 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on 100 block of Meese Circle at 3:45 p.m.
- Vandalism on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 3:48 p.m.
- Loitering on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:00 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 300 block of W. Meadows Lane at 11:06 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18

- Reckless driving on Center Way/ Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:08 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with major injuries on Diablo Rd./McCauley Rd. at 4:23 a.m.
- Drunk in public on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 7:31 a.m.
- Drugs violation on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 1:14 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 600 block of Diablo Rd. at 4:06 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on 100 block of Santiago Dr. at 10:04 p.m.
- Reckless driving, arrest, on Blemer Rd./Green Valley Rd. at 10:41 p.m.
- Music disturbance on 100 block of Santiago Dr. at 11:52 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Robert John Allen Jr.

Robert John Allen Jr., a former longtime resident of Danville, died in Fair Oaks, Calif., on Sept. 5 after a long fight against Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

He is survived by Melinda, his wife of 46 years; his son Rob and wife Jennifer; his son Michael and wife Carla; his daughter Amy; his brother Bruce and wife Doral; his mother Nancy Budd; and two grandchildren. No formal service will be held. Donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Carl Forsberg

Carl Forsberg, a longtime resident of Danville and Rossmore, died Sept. 6 at the age of 85.

He was born Aug. 28, 1923, to a Swedish immigrant in San Francisco, and grew up in Sacramento, graduating McClatchy High School and Sacramento Junior College. In 1943 he enlisted in the Navy. He married his college sweetheart, Ada Little, before being commissioned for Amphibious Training in Maryland. He served as a lieutenant and officer-in-charge of LCT landing craft with the U.S. South Pacific fleet. After returning from Okinawa in 1945, he attended UC Berkeley, graduating with a degree in architecture in 1949.

He worked at an architectural firm in Berkeley, then accepted a position at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In 1974, he transferred to the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., and in 1975 was promoted to head up the construction branch for the Office of Military Applications. His responsibilities included the design, construction and budget activities for all the nuclear weapons production plants and national laboratories in the United States. After he retired in 1985, they returned to the Bay Area in 1988. Besides his professional life, he was active in the communities, schools and churches where he lived. He was also an avid fisherman, hunter and gardener.

He is survived by his daughter Catherine Simi and her husband Michael of Danville; his son Dr. Rikard Forsberg and his wife Lori of El Dorado Hills; and four grandchildren. Services were held Sept. 12 at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Donations can be made to the Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94596.

Bill Callanan

Bill Callanan, 88, a native of Ireland and former resident of San Francisco, died peacefully at his home at Diablo Lodge in Danville with his three children by his side.

He was predeceased by his wife Mary Callanan; he is survived by

his children, Kevin Callanan (Sally) of Petaluma, Maureen Neumann (Dirk) of Danville, and Bill Callanan (Ruth) of San Francisco; and five grandchildren; as well as brothers, sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews in Ireland. Donations may be made to the Employee Gratuity Fund at Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Road, Danville 94526, where a loving staff made him a fond part of their compassionate family for the past nine years. A private family service was held.

Walter Retzlaff

Walter Retzlaff of Alamo died in his home Sept. 1 at the age of 73 following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born Oct. 14, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wis., graduated from Wauwatosa High School in 1952, and attended Marquette University. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserves submarines. He married Judith G. Zeeman in Wauwatosa, Wis., on Oct. 15, 1955. He worked for several companies throughout his management career in the construction machinery industry including Rexnord, CMI and Caterpillar Tractor. After retirement he worked for the Town of Danville. Walt was an avid sailor and a former member of both the Palo Alto and Oakland Yacht clubs. He also did volunteer work with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department and was 2007 Contra Costa County Volunteer of the Year.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; son Mark and his wife Susan Retzlaff, son Dan and his wife Yvonne Retzlaff, son Tom and his wife Tiffany Retzlaff, daughter JoAnne Retzlaff; five grandchildren; brothers David Mauthe and William Mauthe; sister Janet Casey; and his uncle, Dr. Howard Mauthe. Funeral services were held Sept. 11 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville. Memorial funds have been established in his name for Messiah Lutheran Church and the Martinez Hospice Program.

David Mensing

David Mensing, a former resident of Danville, died at the age of 84.

He was born June 9, 1924, in Oakland and lived most of his long life in the Bay Area. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Japan. He worked in the lumber business for Louisiana Pacific and Georgia Pacific fostering a lifelong love of trees and forests. He raised four children, three step-children and loved his 15 grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; sons Scott, David Michael and William; daughters Julie, Milly and Kristin and their extended families. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Phyllis, daughter Holly, and mother Edith Mensing. A memorial service was held Sept. 13 at the Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of

San Ramon Valley in Danville. The family has requested contributions to the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park in Danville. Please send c/o Julie Simpson, 495 Palm Ave., Penngrove, CA 94951.

Bert Kamalman

Bert Kamalman, a resident of Alamo, died unexpectedly Sept. 8 while playing golf.

He was born June 20, 1934, in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from San Francisco State University in 1956 with a degree in business. He went on to a 40-year career at Pacific Steel.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marilyn Weder Kamalman. He is survived by his wife Arlene; his son, David and daughter-in-law Kim; two granddaughters; and Arlene's children Teri (Curt), Linda and Brad (Lucy) and their 11 children. He was laid to rest Sept. 11 at the Mountain View Cemetery, Home of Eternity, in Oakland with a celebration of his life at his and Arlene's home in Alamo. Donations can be made to Peace for Families, www.PeaceforFamilies.org, or the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Helen E. Morrison

Helen E. Morrison, a Danville resident, died peacefully Sept. 9 in Danville at the age of 83 after a two-year battle with lung cancer.

She was born Dec. 22, 1925, to Marie and Charles Catalde and grew up in Southern California before moving to Danville in 1996, when her best friend and love of her life William Morrison passed away after 54 years of marriage.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Sharon Morrison, Jeff and Roberta Morrison, and Greg and Bonni Morrison; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Services were held Sept. 15 at Lima Family Milpitas Fremont Mortuary. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin 94568.

Michael Atella

Michael Atella, a former resident of Danville, died unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep Sept. 12 in Hinsdale, Ill., at the age of 58.

He was born Oct. 11, 1949, and was a graduate of UCLA. He was a long-time resident of Danville where he coached Little League for more than a decade.

He is survived by his children, Julie and Tony. He was also a loving son, brother, uncle, friend, teacher and coach. A funeral Mass was celebrated in Illinois on Sept. 15. A celebration of his life was held Oct. 11, on what would have been his 59th birthday at noon at Osage Park.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Danville Multimedia Art Group Multimedia artists talk about contemporary art, exchange concepts and work from 6-8 p.m., the first Wednesday of every month, at Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 648-4885.

Play with your Serger Workshop Sue Green-Baker, the "Serger Goddess," will have a workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Odd Fellows Hall, 4349 Cowell Rd., Concord. Sue can show decorative stitches as well as construction techniques. Cost is \$30 for ASG members and \$40 for non-members with \$7 kit fee. Visit www.asgwalnutcreek.org or call 933-4065.

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 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

Amador Valley Quilter Meeting Ellen Anne Eddy, renowned thread artist, will present a program, Thread Magic, 1:30-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. This event is free.

Ellen's Guild Ellen's Guild is a non-profit group dedicated to supporting programs of Family Stress Center of Contra Costa County to help make a difference in lives of underprivileged children. It meets from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., second Tuesday of every month. New members welcome. Membership fee \$40/year. Visit www.familystresscenter.org or call 820-2371.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. The next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 13. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

Contra Costa Wind Symphony Duane Carroll and Jozsef Csikota lead the wind symphony in a concert devoted to "monsters and heroes" with music from "The Phantom of the Opera," "Inchon," "Godzilla Eats Las Vegas" and "Superman" at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, at Leshher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$18 for regular admission; \$15 for seniors; and \$12 for students and are on sale at the ticket office or by visiting www.lesherartscenter.org. Visit www.cvwindsymphony.org.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Danville Fall Crafts Festival

Celebrate the 17th annual Danville Fall Crafts Festival, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. this weekend, both Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 25-26, on Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville. Highlights are 200 art and craft exhibits, entertainment, Halloween costume parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, kids activities and great food and beverages.

Four-Hand and Solo Piano Reeder Music Academy presents Dr. Steven and Yukiko Moellering in a recital featuring the works of Mozart, Debussy, Chopin, Liszt and others, 7-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. For information and tickets call 964-0571. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

Events

Adoption Faire At East County Animal Shelter Please join us for an Adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter, 12-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. The faire is being brought to you by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue and features a professional dog trainer, low-cost spay/neuter certificates, FREE dog bed, leash, collar and cat toys to adopters and FREE hot dogs and drinks. For more information visit www.tvr.org.

Antique Appraisal Show Come to the Antique Appraisal Show sponsored by the San Ramon Senior Center Foundation, 12:15-4:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Professional appraisers will evaluate family antiques and collectibles for \$10 per antique. Call 973-3250.

Blue Star Moms Donations Blue Star Moms annual Holiday Hugs Care Package donation drives are currently under way, an easy and convenient way to show our troops that you care. Donations will be accepted at the Danville Veterans Hall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, 400 Hartz Ave. Visit www.bluestarmoms.org or call 648-1549.

Danville Fall Crafts Festival Celebrate the 17th annual Danville Fall Crafts Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 25-26, Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville. Highlights are 200 art and craft exhibits, Glass Pumpkin Patch, entertainment, Halloween costume parade, kids activities and great food and beverages. Admission is free. Call 837-4400.

Farmers Market The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

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.

Harvest Festival Craft Fair Come to the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Harvest Festival Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Have lunch in the Harvest Cafe offering home-baked desserts and Mary's soup. Call 837-5243.

Living Treasure Program The San Ramon Valley Museum is sponsoring the fourth Living Treasure program, 6:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Our guest speaker will be Ken Behring. This is a free evening open to all. Reserve your seat by calling 837-3750.

Pumpkin Jubilee and Harvest Festival Children and their families are invited to celebrate Halloween and Fall Harvest at the Danville Livery's Annual Pumpkin Jubilee, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at 440B Sycamore Valley Blvd., Danville. Enjoy trick-or-treating at participating stores, pumpkin carving, balloonist, live music, free pumpkins (while supplies last) and more! Visit www.danvillelivery.com.

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.blackhawkmuseum.org or call 736-2277.

Exhibits

Indians in the Valley The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is running its Indian Life Exhibit through Nov. 18, with displays of tools, maps, clothing, natural foods, hunting and gathering, and games. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in downtown Danville. Call 837-3750.

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We need to preserve our future by re-electing Arnerich, Andersen & Doyle to the Danville Town Council on November 4.

"The town has been and continues to be well planned and maintained thanks to the dedicated efforts of people like Andersen, Arnerich and Doyle."

Newell Arnerich
Danville Vice Mayor,
Architect
1995 - present;
Mayor 1999 & 2004



Candace Andersen
Danville Mayor,
Attorney
2003 - present;
Mayor 2008



Mike Doyle
Danville Council
Member
1991 - present; Mayor
1997, 2001 & 2005



Danville Weekly, Perspective
July 18, 2008

Improve Traffic Safety at Schools
Veterans Memorial Building & Senior Center
Fiscal Responsibility
Partnerships with Schools
Controlling Growth in Tassajara Valley

Responsible
Experienced Leadership

Paid for by: Arnerich for Town Council Committee 2008, Candace for Council, Friends of Mike Doyle

Film

Bay Street Animation Film Festival Films buffs and locals are invited to attend the second annual Animation Film Festival. Northern California's only teen animation film festival, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at the AMC Bay Street 16 theatres, Emeryville. Bay Area middle school and high school students will showcase animated short films to the local community. This event is free.

Fundraisers

Antique Appraisal Show The San Ramon Senior Center Foundation will sponsor its third annual Antique Appraisal Show, from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Professional antique appraiser will evaluate family antiques and collectibles. Cost for entry and \$10 per item appraised. Call 973-3250.

Bay Area Crisis Nursery Gala A Fall Gala Fundraiser will benefit Bay Area Crisis Nursery, which provides a safe place for children whose parents temporarily can't cope, from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, at Diablo Country Club, 1700 Clubhouse Dr. Silent and live auctions including David Yurman jewelry, Hawaiian Pro Bowl package, get-aways and more. Cost is \$95. Smooth jazz by Antonia Venezia,

gourmet dinner and valet parking included. Visit events@bacn.info or call 685-6633.

Biletnikoff Foundation Celebrity Crab Fest The ninth annual Biletnikoff Foundation Celebrity Crab Fest and Sports Auction will take place 6-11:45 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7, at the San Ramon Marriott. It includes dinner with celebrities, live entertainment, a diamond drawing, Raiderettes performance, original art by Armando Delgado, a tribute to Gene Upshaw and live and silent auctions. Cost is \$120 per person. Call 556-2525 or visit www.biletnikoff.net

Hats Off America Run/Walk Join the Bear Flag Runner, Sparky George, in the Hats Off America's 13th Run/Walk to raise funds for the families of soldiers who have given their lives in service, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. The fee is \$35 per runner and is free for volunteers. All runners and volunteers receive a red t-shirt and lunch provided by El Balazo. Visit www.hatsoffamerica.us or call 855-1950.

Pink Ribbon Day Hospice Thrift Shoppe will celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a special Pink Ribbon Day, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, 444 Diablo Rd., Danville. There will be refreshments, free drawings, door prizes and educational material on breast cancer as well as big discounts on all store items. Funds raised will benefit patients in the care of Hospice East Bay.

Power of Change Fashion Event The fourth annual Wardrobe of Opportunity evening of fashion and inspiration, 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, 300 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, will feature Chip Conley, CEO and Founder of Joie de Vivre Hospitality, as keynote speaker. The cost is \$50. Visit www.wardrobe.org.

Health

Diabetes Management San Ramon Regional Medical Center is opening a Diabetes Management Program to provide counseling and education for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Call 275-8210.

Life Line Vascular Screening Eighty percent of stroke victims have no apparent warning signs but ultrasound screenings can help avoid a stroke. Come to a Life Line Screening, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, St. Isidore Catholic Church, Danville. The cost is \$45-\$209. Call (800) 324-1851.

Welcome to Medicare The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) of Contra Costa will discuss Medicare, supplemental insurances and drug plans, 7-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Free but reservations required. Space is limited. Visit www.sanramonmedctr.com or call 275-8230.

Holiday

Costume Day at Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch Kids are invited to come in costume to the Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch and Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. They can trick-or-treat at the market and get \$1 off a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch all day. Visit www.forestHomeFarms.wordpress.com or call 997-6575.

Kids and Teens

Hospice Children and Teens Support Group The Hospice of the East Bay offers the children and teens support group, Footsteps, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 11, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For information and to register call 887-5678.

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.

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

'Twilight of the Bombs' Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes, author or editor of 22 books and recipient of numerous fellowships and grants for research and writing, is writing a fourth volume of nuclear history, "The Twilight of the Bombs," about the post-Cold War years. His presentation starts at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$40 for adults, students 21 & under \$15-\$20. Call 373-6800.

Behaviorally Challenged Child Join us for a discussion about understanding the disruptive and behaviorally challenging child; when to worry and what to do, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, Danville Library, 400 Front St. Visit www.behaviorquest.com or call 648-4800.

Journey Through Hunger Shoshana Kobrin's workshop will focus on transforming our inner hunger into a fertile void where the longing for spirit, communion, and connection is uncovered and fulfillment is possible, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. The cost is \$95 for CEU's, \$70 without. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Living with Advanced Breast Cancer Join Dr. Lisa Bailey as she discusses the latest treatments for metastatic breast cancer, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the Wellness Center, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Free. Call 933-0107.

Prepare for the Teenage Years Seven Hills School presents Michael Riera, Ph.D., one of the country's foremost authorities and the author of the bestseller, "Staying Connected to your Teenager," at a lecture, "Prepare for the Logic of the Teen and Late Childhood Years," for parents and educators, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 975 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$15 per person; educators are admitted free. Visit www.sevenhillsschool.org or call 974-4981 for information.

Literary Events

'Two Cities, One Tale' Danville and San Ramon residents are joining in a six week, book-sharing event to read one book together from Sept. 22-Oct.

27. Pick up a free copy of "Kabul Beauty School" by Deborah Rodriguez, to read, discuss and then pass along to friends. CityRead concludes with a special presentation featuring the author at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Great Books Poetry Weekend The Great Books Council of San Francisco will host its 23rd annual weekend of poetry discussions Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 15-16, at Westminster Retreat in Alamo. Cost is \$154. To register call (650) 854-3980 or e-mail oscarf1@earthlink.net.

Live Music

Yellow Wood Music Schedule Come enjoy live music from 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights at Yellow Wood Coffee and Tea, 215 Alamo Plaza in Alamo. On Friday, Oct. 24, Carlos Kampf plays Brazilian guitar; Saturday, Oct. 25 the Yellow Wood Ramblers play western swing; Saturday, Nov. 1, Kate Burkart and Ron Bruder play originals. These events are free.

On Stage

'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.villagegeth-eatreshows.com, or call 314-3400.

Best Of Momix Enjoy a performance Momix, a company of dancer illusionists, 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 2, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 973-ARTS. Single tickets are \$34, packages available.

Night at the Improv Join San Ramon's own Improv U Troupe and the newest graduates of Improv U for a fun and interactive evening of improvisational comedy, 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bolinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. The show is unrehearsed, unscripted, and crafted on the spot with the help of audience participation and suggestions. The show is not suitable for ages 18 and under. Tickets are \$8. For information visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 973-ARTS.

Tri-Valley High - Episodes of Terror Creatures of Impulse presents a show about teenagers by teenagers, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Oct. 30-31, at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. The audience will offer suggestions to help develop the characters, creating the story start to finish. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Visit www.civcartsliterary.org or call 931-3444.

Recreation

Mt. Diablo Trail Adventure 2008 The Trail Adventure offers a 1/2 Marathon, 10K Run, and Family Hike starting at 9 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 2, at Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek. Event includes a live band and lunch for all participants. Registration opens at 7 a.m. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

Sports

Ski and Snowboard Swap San Ramon Valley High School PTSA's is holding its 31st Ski and Snowboard Swap, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1-2, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Buy/sell new and gently used ski and snowboard equipment and apparel. Adult and child sizes available. Expert fittings by Bay Area ski and snowboard shops. Admission is \$5; 14 years and under are free with adult. Call 785-2321.

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Entertaining the troops

San Ramon grads make music in the war zones

by Susan Astbury

Two young men from Danville finished a tour in Iraq in August. A tour entertaining the American troops, that is.

Childhood friends Tony Glaser and Scott Wittenberg, both 25, traveled with their band, Beautiful Generation, playing classic rock music for American troops at military bases in Kuwait, Iraq, Germany and Italy.

"We've never played for an audience before where everyone was holding a big machine gun," said Wittenberg.

The tour was organized by AKA Productions, a private provider of entertainment for U.S. Armed Forces stationed around the world. The four-member band traveled from base to base in Iraq in Black Hawk helicopters or other military planes.

"These Black Hawk rides were something else," said Glaser. "The hot wind blew through the cabin as we stared out into the vast desert."

Wittenberg, a drummer, and Glaser, who plays the bass guitar, spent the first week and a half in Iraq performing at four bases playing rock 'n' roll classics that the troops knew and sang along with.

"The best thing of all was the joy we got from helping our troops let off steam and feel at home by rocking out with us," Glaser said.

"The troops were so supportive, gracious and thankful, even in the harsh conditions and the 130-degree heat of a war-zone," he added. "To have the opportunity to play for them, to give a little back for their sacrifice, was such an incredible experience that will always be special to me."

One of the shows was performed at Camp Bucca in one of Saddam Hussein's old theaters. The camp is also home to the largest detainment facility in the world.

"Some 18,000 prisoners are being held there now, but most will be released eventually and surprisingly with more skills and education than before," said Glaser.

Between shows, Glaser and Wittenberg handed out shoes and toys to the Iraqi children whose fathers were being held at the facility.

"It was very cool and hectic at the same time," said Glaser. "I would be fitting a kid with the limited and random pairs of shoes we had, while a mob of Iraqi women and children kept trying to sneak more pairs and toys than we could give."

After 11 days in Iraq, the band returned to Kuwait, and flew to Germany and Italy.

The two friends were living in Los Angeles when some folks at the Musicians Institute, where Wittenberg works, said they needed a bass player and drummer for a band to entertain the troops. Glaser had just returned from a three-month tour across the United States with a band called The People's Party.

Wittenberg called Glaser the day he got back with the proposal and said he needed an immediate answer.

"I said sure without even thinking," Glaser recalled. "It's hard to pass up an experience like that if you have any adventure in you."

"My first thought was that the tour was a great opportunity for Tony and a wonderful experience that he would never have again," said Helene Glaser, Tony's mother. "He could do his part in the war by bringing music to the troops. Where we live is very sheltered and they had a chance to see a whole different perspective."

Scott's father, Steve Wittenberg, said at first it was a shock. "Most of Scott's tours have been to Long Beach and San Diego. It was a neat life experience for him and a



Top: Beautiful Generation puts on a show at 2 a.m. for the troops in Iraq at Camp Bucca, home of the world's largest detainment facility in the background. Above: Band members of "Beautiful Generation" about to board a Black Hawk helicopter to fly from Kuwait into Iraq.



San Ramon Valley High graduates Scott Wittenberg on drums and Tony Glaser on guitar "rock out" at one of Saddam Hussein's old theaters in Balad, Iraq.

chance to give back to the troops. But we were a little worried."

Wittenberg and Glaser met in the sixth grade in band at Charlotte Wood Middle School. Scott's love of the drums and Tony's talent for the bass guitar was a bond that has kept the guys together as friends and musicians throughout middle school, high school and into adulthood.

"Tony and I met in Mr. Cerri's class ... Our first band 10 years ago was called Pucker Up and we've been playing together ever since," Wittenberg said.

After graduating from San Ramon Valley High School in 2000, they headed for Southern California to follow their dreams of becoming professional musicians.

Following graduation from UC San Diego, Glaser "rushed to L.A. to pursue his music career." The first year, he worked as a substitute teacher in the L.A. Unified School District. Now he is producing two albums, playing in a band called Alma Desnuda with his brother Joe, composing music and substitute teaching.

"I made the decision to go to San Diego State University where my parents met," said Wittenberg. "But a month before school started I decided to move to Hollywood to pursue my calling." He graduated from the Musicians Institute and was asked to teach rock drums and rhythm at the school, which he does during the day. At night he performs with his L.A.-based band, Zen Robbi.

Glaser and Wittenberg advise younger musicians to have fun and be true to what they are communicating with their music.

"Follow your dreams and your heart," said Wittenberg. "You only live once. You'll regret the things you didn't do more than the things you did. How many people get to say that they played in a rock band in L.A.?"

The tour in Iraq was also a rare opportunity.

"Everywhere we went we were enthusiastically welcomed with hugs and smiles," Wittenberg said. "The whole tour was literally a series of once in a lifetime experiences." ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

RECIPES

Farfalle (bowties) with Peas (serves 4)

- 1 lb Farfalle
- 1-1/2 cups frozen baby peas
- 8 thin slices pancetta
- 2 oz butter
- 2 Tbsp each shredded fresh basil and mint

1. Cook the farfalle in a large pan of rapidly boiling salted water until al dente. Drain and return to the pan.
2. While the pasta is cooking, steam microwave or lightly boil the baby peas until just tender and drain.
3. Chop the pancetta and cook in the butter over medium heat for 2 minutes. Toss the butter and pancetta mixture through the pasta with the peas, basil and mint. Season with cracked black pepper and serve.



Fettuccine with Tomatoes, Shrimp and Basil (serves 4 as appetizer)

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 lb uncooked, med shrimp, peeled and de-veined
- 4 large tomatoes, seeded and coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/3 cup sliced pitted black olives
- 3 large garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tbsp minced shallots
- Salt, pepper, freshly ground
- 1 lb fettuccini, freshly cooked
- Grated Romano cheese

1. Heat oil in heavy large skillet over med-high heat. Add shrimp, tomatoes, basil olives, garlic and shallots.
2. Season with salt and pepper. Cook until shrimp turn pink, stirring frequently, about 3 minutes.
3. Place pasta in serving bowl. Pour sauce over and toss. Sprinkle with Romano. Serve immediately.

Spinach Mushroom Pasta (serves 4)

- 8 oz. whole-wheat pasta
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 1 lb sliced mushrooms
- 6 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 cups raw spinach
- Kosher salt and freshly-ground pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

1. Boil the pasta in 2 quarts water according to package directions; drain and transfer to a platter.
2. Heat the oil in a large frying pan; add the garlic and mushrooms and cook until softened, about 5 minutes.
3. Add cream cheese and milk and cook, stirring often, until boiling. Stir in the spinach and cook until wilted, about 3 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then pour over the pasta. Sprinkle with the chives and serve with the cheese on the side.

A passion for pasta

Who doesn't love pasta??? It's a universally popular food and, before the "low-carbs" craze, most families ate pasta several times per month. Pasta doesn't have to be high in calories if you limit your portions and the amount of sauces and fats you use with it. Pasta also digests easily and, as long as you get moderate to high physical activity, you should burn off the carbohydrates associated with it. Pasta meals are generally economic, nutritious and easy to prepare, especially as complete entrees.

One does wonder who first decided to throw bread dough into hot water and invent pasta. The Chinese have been making noodles since 3000 B.C. and pasta has been traced back to the fourth century B.C., on an Etruscan tomb showing people making pasta. Legends cite that it was Marco Polo who introduced pasta to Italy when he returned from his trip to Far East in the late 13th century. Pasta arrived in the New World via the English, who brought it from Italy.

Fresh pasta usually contains eggs, hence a brighter color, more flavor and higher nutritional value. Fresh pasta has a softer texture and needs only a short cooking time while dried pasta requires more cooking time and swells when cooked, about 60 percent more than fresh pasta. The softer texture of fresh

pasta goes well with lighter, simpler sauces; most dried pastas work better with thick sauces and sauces containing meat and vegetables.

Fresh and dried pasta comes in many varieties—long, e.g., spaghetti; flat, e.g., lasagna; short and tubular, e.g., penne; soup pasta, e.g., orzo; stuffed, e.g., cannelloni; and Asian noodles. Today, there are more than 600 pasta shapes worldwide.

Pasta dishes can be wonderfully light and flavorful or they can be dense, overcooked and over-sauced. A good cook masters the art of pasta cooking and dish-making with practice and more practice. There's a myth that throwing pasta on the wall is the true test to see if it is ready. The only thing this does is make a mess! Instead, remove a strand or two with a fork, then taste it. The Italian "al dente" method (or "to the tooth") requires the pasta to be soft with a very small white dot at the core, rendering it tender with a slightly firm bite.

Here are Epicure's top tips for cooking pasta and a few recipes to try. And, in case you didn't know, every Oct. 25 is World Pasta Day. Buon appetite!

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.

Forks Corks & More

AMERICAN

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44 Church Street, Danville, (925) 820-7200. Bridges in downtown Danville is the ideal venue for lunch or dinner. Enjoy cozy, alfresco dining on our vine-covered patio, or experience the warm ambience of our main dining room. The sleek, contemporary bar/lounge area is ideal for meeting friends after work, offering a delicious "small bites" menu and specialty cocktails. Executive chef Kevin Gin creates an inspired seasonal menu featuring California cuisine with European and Asian influences. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30p.m. Dinner nightly. Complimentary valet parking.

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!

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720 Camino Ramon, (in the Rose Garden), Danville, 925-837-9800. Amici's offers authentic, thin, crisp-crust Pizza and a casual Italian menu of freshly made Pastas and Salads, all available for takeout and delivery as well as dine-in at this new Danville location. Check out the menu or order online at www.amicis.com

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10/28 - VINO VIXENS-1st Showcase for Women in Business; Gourmet Theme; 6pm to 8:30pm

11/6 - Silver Oak and Twomey will be at Bella Vino 6pm to 8pm

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Tips for cooking pasta masterfully

- **The pasta:** Start with good, if not fresh, pasta. Look for dried pasta that has been made in Italy. Make your sauce first; pasta should be prepared just before serving it.
- **The pot of water:** "Pasta, like tango dancers, needs room to move," someone said. Use a large, deep pot, ideally one of those heavy stainless steel beauties, with a thick bottom. Use plenty of water, about 5-6 quarts for each pound of pasta.
- **The salt:** Salting the water brings out the natural flavor of the pasta. Add about 1 Tbsp of sea salt for each pound of pasta, once the water has started to boil but not too late or it will not be absorbed into the pasta. Let the salt dissolve before adding the pasta.
- **Cooking:** Drop the pasta into the pot of rapidly boiling water. Don't break the pasta to fit the pot, use a wooden spoon to bend it as it cooks. Cover the pot to hasten heat recovery. After you add pasta to the water, the water ceases to boil. When the water begins boiling again, remove the lid and finish cooking. Stir the pasta often to prevent sticking, especially during the first few minutes when the pasta surface is coated with sticky, glue-like starch but don't add oil. Oil coats the pasta and repels the sauce. One pound of spaghetti takes about

- 8-10 minutes to cook but check it frequently until it's "al dente." Never overcook pasta—better to slightly undercook it as the pasta will continue cooking for a bit after draining. Never combine two types or sizes of pasta in the same pot of water. Fishing for the one that gets done first is a pain.
- **Draining:** As soon as the pasta is done, drain it in a colander but do not rinse it. The natural starches of the pasta are released into the cooking water; these starches help the sauce adhere better to the pasta. The only exception to not rinsing is pasta for salads. Then, use cold water to stop your pasta from overcooking. The strands should be glossy with moisture. Also, reserve a glassful of the starchy cooking water to dilute the sauce or bind the pasta with the sauce before serving.
- **The sauce and the cheese:** Don't over-sauce the pasta—allow the flavor of the pasta to stand out. Place the pasta in the pan in which the sauce is cooking and stir well. This method coats the pasta better than spooning the sauce on top.
- **Serving:** Let the pasta sit, covered, to absorb the sauce for a minute or two, then remove the lid, stir again, and serve instantly. If the recipe calls for grated cheese, add a little before tossing, then serve extra at the table. Only serve pasta hot.

Search a complete Restaurant Listing on DanvilleWeekly.com

OF NOTE

State finalist for American Miss

Castille Zander, 11 and a sixth-grader at Stone Valley Middle School, was a State Finalist for Northern California representing Danville at the National American Miss Pageant held at the Santa Clara Hyatt in August. There were 70 girls in the pre-teen division and Castille placed Fourth Runner-Up in the Spokesmodel Competition. Her speech was "President for a Day," and she talked about her favorite causes: conserving energy by changing light bulbs, animal shelters that help abused and abandoned pets, and The Make A Wish Foundation. Now she qualifies to go to the National Pageant in November to compete against finalists from all over the United States.



Castille Zander

Castille plays the flute and also enjoys lacrosse, tennis, hiking and swimming, as well as performing and singing with the Sunshine Vocal Group. She performed at the Danville Hay Days Talent Show held at the Veteran's Hall, where she sang a song by Kelly Pickler, "Things That Never Cross A Man's Mind." She is the daughter of Lisa and Aaron Zander.

Kids' Country names new director

Chris Erbe has been named as the new Executive Director of the San Ramon Valley School Age

Child Care Alliance. The alliance operates 12 after-school childcare facilities under the name of Kids' Country on elementary school campuses in the School District.

"It is quite an honor to work in such a vibrant and successful organization like Kids' Country," said Erbe. "Kids' Country has a great reputation for providing outstanding after school programming for children in a fun, affordable, safe, and convenient environment. Its commitment to enrichment, diversity, discovery, and growth mirror the characteristics and values of the community as well as the excellent school system that partners with Kids' Country."

"Chris Erbe has extensive public school and nonprofit executive experience," said Loucy DeAtley, vice president of the board of directors and head of the search committee. "Until earlier this year, Chris led the turnaround of a mental health agency in crisis, Child Haven (Fairfield), after several years of supervising the contracts with Solano County of eight Family Resource Centers. He had previously served as the executive director of the Las Vegas Inner City Games, providing after-school and weekend recreational programming for at-risk youth."

Erbe also devoted nearly 30 years to teaching in public schools, as a dean or principal for most of those years, including a stint as the principal of a middle school in Kuwait. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Erbe replaces Len Heid who retired from the alliance in May 2008. The San Ramon Valley School Age Child Care Alliance was established in 1985 as a community response to the need for quality before- and after-school child care.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



The new fire station of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District at 11445 Windemere Parkway in San Ramon.

Dougherty Regional Fire Authority

A new fire protection agency was created in 1988 after new cities Dublin and San Ramon incorporated in the early '80s. Sparks always seem to fly around fire service proposals and the new Dougherty Regional Fire Authority was no exception.

First a little history. In Dublin and in San Ramon south of MonteVIDEO, a community services district had provided fire and other government services for decades. Originally called the Parks Services District (for Camp Parks) in 1953, the district provided water for agriculture and covered 2,175 acres.

In 1960 this district was transformed by developers Bob McLain and Ken Volk and re-named the Valley Community Services District, which served thousands of new homes. Under Volk-McLain's auspices, the district expanded to 5,900 acres, covered Dublin and South San Ramon and was headed by five elected directors. They provided water, garbage, sewer, park and recreation services, as well as fire protection. In 1977 the board changed the name to the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD).

When Dublin incorporated in 1981 and San Ramon in 1983, the cities set up a joint committee to negotiate the future of DSRSD services. The initial committee included Pete Snyder from Dublin, Joe Covello from the district and Wayne Bennett from San Ramon. Dublin's Linda Jeffery and San Ramon's Rick Harmon also participated regularly. The group discussed and designed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would re-assign the district's services.

One observer said that a more volatile group of players could hardly have been imagined.

Finally, an MOU was agreed to by the cities, the district and the two counties. The Dougherty Regional Fire Authority (DRFA) was created and began fire protection service June 1, 1988, in South San Ramon and Dublin. The first six-member board included Mary Lou Oliver, Wayne Bennett and Rick Harmon from San Ramon, and Linda Jeffery, Pete Snyder and Georgean Vonheeder from Dublin. Community buildings, parks and garbage services went to each city, while water and sewer services stayed with DSRSD.

The debate over fire services for

San Ramon moved to a different setting. The articulate and vocal Joe Covello, who served on both the DSRSD board and the San Ramon Parks Commission, believed that San Ramon should have its own fire agency. He opposed the annexation of Tassajara Fire to the SRVFPD in 1990 and wanted to create a San Ramon Fire District. Some members of the San Ramon Council agreed with him, but not all of them.

Discussions about San Ramon's and Dublin's fire future went on for nearly a decade. Livermore and Pleasanton were setting up a new fire district and Dublin could join that district. The San Ramon Council discussed two options: having DRFA join the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD) or join the proposed Tri-Valley FPD (with Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore). There were concerns over costs, firefighter salaries, voting power on the fire board, etc.

Pat Boom, who was elected to the San Ramon Council in 1989 after serving on the SRVFPD Board, thought it would be best to have the

San Ramon portion of the DRFA annex to the SRVFPD. When Curt Kinney became San Ramon mayor in 1996, he pressed for a decision. The San Ramon Council finally decided economic advantages were overwhelming, since the SRVFPD would be supported by property tax dollars and the city would no longer have to use its general fund to pay for the fire function.

Fire services were finally sorted out when Livermore and Pleasanton created the Valley Fire District and Dublin joined the Alameda County Fire District. DRFA joined the San Ramon Valley District in 1997. Today the SRVFPD covers 155 square miles and is recognized for its high level of fire protection and emergency services.

Sources: *Village Pioneer* 1962; *Valley Pioneer* Sept. 12, 1988; *The Valley Times* March 20, 1968; *Newline* (DSRSD newsletter) Jan. 1988; *San Ramon Valley Times* 1991, Jan. 29, 1996, May 25, 1997; interviews with Phillip Phillips, Paul Ryan, Joe Covello, Richard Fahey, Linda Jeffery, Pat Boom.



Stockings of Christmas cheer

The National Charity League Vista Oak class of 2009 helped sort and mail Christmas Stockings to Macedonian Outreach, which serves countries including Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Serbia with basic needs such as food, clothing, equipment and medical supplies. The nonprofit organization was founded by Danville residents Vula and Haig Rushdonny. Our NCL Vista Oak Chapter made and filled more than 300 Christmas stockings to send to the Balkans for Christmas.

Pictured is the Senior Class of 2009 (front, l-r): Katherine Boomer, Meghan Hammitt, Erin Morra, Katie Prakash, and Kelsey Moss; (back) Lindsay Forrest, Jovanna Pieri, Kristen Pries, Julia Drimmer, Kendyl Bachelor, Hailey Harrington, Natalie Moore, Morgan Chace, Courtney Monheit and Kaylee Schantz.

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Parent photographers

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



Flash on top at tournament

The Mustang Flash took first place in the Devil Mountain Tournament (U14 Girls) on Aug. 30-31 in Danville. The Flash beat league rivals Mustang Rush in overtime, 1-0. Team members include (front, l-r) Sarah Smith, Moe Gluskin, Nikki Ruzich, Charlotte Sedlock, Makaila Constable, Catherine Bronge, Megan Chiang, Vanessa Vega; (middle) Alex Kazerounian, Haley Loreen, Casey Putvin, Brynne Newsome, Kendal Simonse, Brynne Ichiuji, Megan Blair; (back) Coach Dave Blair, Drew Ditano and Coach Marco Ditano.



Xtreme champs at Devil Mountain

The Mustang Xtreme U11 Girls Soccer Team claimed the championship at the 28th annual Mustang Soccer Devil Mountain Tournament in Danville held Aug. 31. The Mustang Xtreme beat the Stockton Storm, 2-1, in overtime during the championship game. Team members (back, l-r) Coach Dave Patterson, Daniella Paradiso, Katie Parker, Makenna Smith, Rebecca Silverman, Jessica Lateur, Erin Nash, Megan McCabe, Aubrey Martinez, Assistant Coach Don Fornasier; (front) Katie Patterson, Julia Espino, Kathryn LaBarbera, Sara Walker, Elise Ericson, Joelle Fornasier, Samantha Levy and Carina Pineda.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 24

Football

SRVHS vs. Cal High (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

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

Men's Water Polo

MVHS vs. Drake, 4 p.m.

MVHS- Acalanes JV Tournament

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at Miramonte, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25

Cross Country

Mt. Sac Invite

Women's Volleyball

SRVHS- Northgate Tournament

Men's Water Polo

MVHS- Acalanes JV Tournament

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Women's Tennis

SRVHS vs. Foothill, 4 p.m.

MVHS at Carondelet

Women's Volleyball

SRVHS vs. Cal High (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

MVHS at Livermore (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

Men's Water Polo

MVHS at Amador Valley, 5:30 p.m.

Women's Water Polo

MVHS at Amador Valley, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 30

Men's Water Polo

MVHS at SRVHS, 5:30 p.m.

Women's Water Polo

MVHS at SRVHS, 4 p.m.

Women's Tennis

SRVHS at Carondelet, 4 p.m.

MVHS at Amador

Women's Volleyball

SRVHS vs. Foothill (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

MVHS vs. Carondelet (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

Friday, Oct. 31

Football

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

MVHS at De La Salle (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAP-UP

by Lizzy Hearne

Tennis

Waterpolo

Monte Vista water polo sunk the competition this week, with the varsity girls beating Granada, 23-3, on Oct. 14 and Cal High, 15-2, only two days later. Teresa Steffens defended her way into Player of the Week for the undefeated team. Girls varsity is currently in first place in the East Bay Athletic League.

Varsity boys defeated Granada, 15-7. Alan Robertson scored six of the team's 13 goals against Cal High, beating them 13-7.

Football

Mustang Football pulled out another win against Cal High, outscoring them 24-21, last Friday, Oct. 17. Brendan Garcia kicked a field goal in the last minute of the game, putting Monte Vista in the lead. Brett Nottingham, Zach Ertz, Tom Hemmingson and Sam Mosely led the offensive line to victory. Top defensive players included David Wilkerson, Azziz Ikhara and Nick Garitano. Monte Vista's record is currently 6-0.



Mustang varsity player Sheena Chaudhuri faces Michelle Keyser of San Ramon Valley High.

SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAP-UP

by Kaity Ferretti

Women's Volleyball

The San Ramon varsity women's volleyball team beat Monte Vista on Tuesday, Oct. 14, in three games. San Ramon anticipated a bigger challenge from Monte Vista, but the loss of a key player hurt the Mustangs. The Wolves started out with high energy, but it slowly diminished as the expected contest failed to materialize. SRVHS played well, with excellent blocking by Leah Foltz, and Brie Vandersloot got off some good shots.

San Ramon now stands second in the East Bay Athletic League. They were scheduled to play Amador again Tuesday, Oct. 21, and if the Wolves again beat the Dons, they would rank as first in league. This was expected to be a challenge, however, as Amador is the strongest team in the league next to SRVHS.

"Although they are a really strong team, if we have the energy and desire like we had the first time, we will beat them," said senior Amy Mulligan.

Football

San Ramon varsity football extended its winning streak to 6-0 on Friday, Oct. 17, defeating the Granada Matadors, 35-17.

San Ramon's offense started out strong, scoring within the first two minutes, but then stalled, allowing Granada to score. The Wolves began to recover by the second quarter when quarterback Joe Southwick connected with Mark Huntley in the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown pass. Just four seconds later the Wolves scored again when Nick Russo intercepted a pass and ran for 22 yards into San Ramon's end zone. Just before the second quarter ended Southwick completed a four-yard pass to Josh Madonick, making the score 28-10, San Ramon leading, at halftime.

San Ramon's defense was caught off-guard by Granada's complex offense at first, but once the Wolves caught on, they only allowed Granada to score once more, late in the fourth quarter. San Ramon was lucky to play its least challenging teams first. However, the Wolves are now facing a very tough next few weeks as they play Cal, Foothill, De La Salle, and Monte Vista, respectively.

"This is our home stretch now," said senior captain Garrison Goodman. "This is what we have been training for since the spring. We are really looking forward to the rest of the season. It is going to be high intensity football from here on out."

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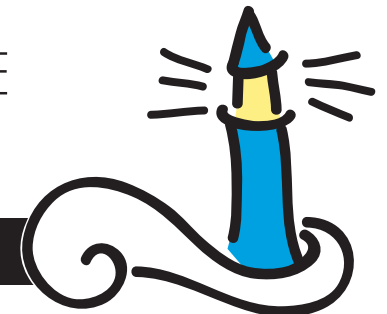
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 Reach over 3 million Californians in 140 community newspapers. Cost \$1,550 for a 3.75"x2" display ad. Super value! Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SCAN.com (Cal-SCAN)

Advertise Your Business
 in 111 alternative newspapers like this one. Over 6 million circulation every week for \$1200. No adult ads. Call Rick at 202-289-8484. (AAN CAN)

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

695 Tours & Travel

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



HOME SERVICES

703 Architecture/Design

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

715 Cleaning Services

ANDREA'S CLEANING
 Professional, Reliable, Affordable Ref's Avail/13Yrs. Exp. 925-339-2461

Convenient Cleaning

Paula's Housecleaning
 Housecleaning and Janitorial Service. 15yrs of Exp. References available upon request. Weekly, Monthly or Bi-Weekly Cleaning. Call Paula (510)908-0889 Lic# 1983679

751 General Contracting

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

757 Handyman/Repairs

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

759 Hauling

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

Myles Hauling
 Affordable, dependable and courteous. 925-360-2779

771 Painting/Wallpaper

#1 JOE'S PAINTING & HANDYMAN
 Free Est / Reasonable Prices No Job Too Small! 925-200-7333 lic# 624542

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Loving Lars

This 10-month-old, male flame-point Siamese mix named Lars has already used up one of his nine lives. Lars was found in sad shape on the outskirts of Livermore in the beginning of October. He not only had fleas and ticks, but both his hind legs were broken at some point in the past and they evidently healed without veterinary attention. Despite a crooked hind limb, Lars walks and plays with no problem, and he can even jump up onto a chair if it is low enough. Lars does have a unique way of sitting due to his healed injuries. Lars is an affectionate young cat who is looking forward to a home where he will be kept safely indoors. Life is rough on the outside! Lars has baby-blue eyes and cream-colored fur with light orange markings. He has been vaccinated and leukemia tested. Visit Lars (pet #81197) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. Lars says "Thank you" to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue for the extra special attention he has been receiving at the animal shelter.



REAL ESTATE

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

Arizona Land Bargain
 36 Acres - \$24,900. Beautiful mountain property in Arizona's Wine Country. Price reduced in buyers market. Won't last! Good access & views. Eureka Springs Ranch offered by AZLR. ADWR report & financing available. 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Land Foreclosure
 60+ Acres just \$39,900! Gorgeous views, year-round roads. Access to 6,000+ acre BLM land. Easy access to I-25. 300 days per year of sunshine. Excellent financing available. 1-866-696-5263 x4760 or x4759. (Cal-SCAN)

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

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

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

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

801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

Downtown Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1225

Downtown Pleasanton, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1535

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$1465.00/m

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA
 new carpets/windows/bath/no pets 1500.00 deposit
 call (925) 351-4872

805 Homes for Rent

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

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

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

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$525.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2 BA - \$759000

Real Estate

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

1490 Laurenita Wy. **\$889,500**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

5 Bedrooms

142 Erselia Trail **\$2,688,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

3690 Silver Oak Pl. **\$579,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 209-7498

5 Bedrooms

308 Sunset Dr. **\$1,098,888**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

149 Sunhaven Rd. **\$1,439,950**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms

7340 Cronin Cir. **\$363,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425

4 Bedrooms

11120 Bay Laurel St. **\$1,342,500**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

1054 Via Madrid **\$399,999**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 596-1918

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms

4485 Bowen St. **\$422,800**
Sun 1-4 Capri RE 989-1748

3 Bedrooms

3231 Vineyard Ave. #116 **\$255,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-9633

5113 Willowview Ct. **\$499,950**
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

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

2283 Camino Brazos **\$648,900**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3826

4723 Fair St. **\$749,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 963-1984

4 Bedrooms

3907 Arrowwood Ct. **\$1,399,999**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3889

2474 Silver Oaks Ln. **\$1,899,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

4177 Payne Rd. **\$525,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA - Carolyn Machi 463-6139

6522 Inglewood Dr. **\$550,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord Kathy Westernoff 577-2600

7341 Joshua Cir. **\$699,000**
Sat 2-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

1531 Greenwood Rd. **\$699,950**
Sun 1-4 Prudential California Realty 580-5107

2623 Starling Ct. **\$759,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 984-4910

4898 Woodthrush Rd. **\$769,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-6175

5114 Mount Tam Cir. **\$949,000**
Sun 1-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

5 Bedrooms

4148 Grant Ct. **\$1,299,500**
Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel 791-2600

1368 Royal Creek Ct. **\$1,328,888**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

6 Bedrooms

2825 Tudor Ct. **\$1,599,000**
Sat 2-4 Prudential CA 963-1984

SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms

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

5 Bedrooms

3062 Hastings Dr. **\$1,039,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 209-7498

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Count on!

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Joe Combs

24 Hour Free Audio Tour (866) 374-0607



Round Hill Alamo

X6000
SOLD

Round Hill:
Spectacular Windsor Green Home.
We represented the Buyer.



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. \$1,199,000



West Side Alamo Views!

X7000
SALE PENDING

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

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



REAL ESTATE

1481 MANILA ROAD, LATHROP

PARADISE AT ITS BEST.....
32 acres with frontage on the San
Joaquin River plus a 5 acre lake.
Great fishing and water sports on
your own private lake. Custom 22
horse stall breezeway barn and
covered arena, tack room &
grooming rooms, large all-weather
outdoor arena. Flood irrigated
pastures. Completely fenced with
steel pipe & cable fencing. Airplane
hangar and landing strip. Custom
Tudor home with 5 bedrooms, 2
½ bathrooms, formal dining room
and living room. Two other homes
on property. Call for private showing
and additional information. Check
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OPEN
SUNDAY 1-4

368 Merrilee Place, Danville-\$1,375,000

REDUCED! Maybe
one of the highest
view points East of
680. Custom one
story on a .75 acre
lot with incredible
views! 2 fireplaces,
a 3-car garage, and
a sparkling pool and
spa. Serene
setting at the end
of a private cul de
sac. Great potential!
Motivated Sellers!
Close to freeway
and town.



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SHAPELL HOMES presents the...
PRIMO'S RUN
for
EDUCATION



ANNIVERSARY

Thank You!

Thank you for making the 25th Anniversary of the Primo's Run for Education its largest turn-out in our history!

We live in a wonderful community where:

- 5,300 people registered to support local education
- More than 400 people volunteered to make it a safe & fun event
- Local businesses continue to support Primo's Run year after year!



Thank you San Ramon Valley for 25 wonderful years!

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HOMES**
discover your path home

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS

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 Fidelity Investments (Scholarshare College Savings Plan) • Safeway • Enpower Corp

