

Red Ribbon Week

Schools spread the message for healthy living > **page 6**

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Going miniature

Museum offers tiny historic buildings for sale

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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

Vet Hall plans move forward

New committee has first meeting on renovations

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IN THE spirit OF THINGS

Danville 'intuitive counselor' helps clients clear negative energy from their lives **PAGE 12**



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Streetwise

ASKED AT GREENBROOK SCHOOL IN DANVILLE, HOME OF THE SCARY HOUSE THAT BENEFITS THE GEORGE MARK HOUSE

Q: Do you believe in ghosts?



I do. I think I have seen them before. When I was 15 and at my grandmother's house I saw a woman. My sister was there and she will back me up.

Stacey Vorous
stay-at-home mom



Yes. I think I have seen one before at my dad's very old house in Connecticut. The ghost looked like a little girl with blonde hair. At first I thought it was my little sister but when I checked on her, she was asleep in bed.

Ashleigh Briggs
behavioral analyst



No. No one has even seen one. They are only in stories and in movies.

Dominique Muldrow
fourth-grader



Yes and no. I do not believe in the scary Halloween type that scare people and haunt houses. I do, however, believe in loved ones that come back to let you know they are OK.

Tracie Muldrow
substitute teacher



Yes, I do. My mother has come to me in my dreams and said not to worry anymore as she is out of pain. At Kids Country, we have "Victor the Ghost" who turns on the water, says "hi" and opens doors.

Jan Arens
childcare director

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

Spiritual mentor Karen Cooper of Danville says the term "psychic" is sensational, explaining that her work as a clairvoyant is about personal growth. Photo by Geoff Gillette. Design by Rick Nobles.

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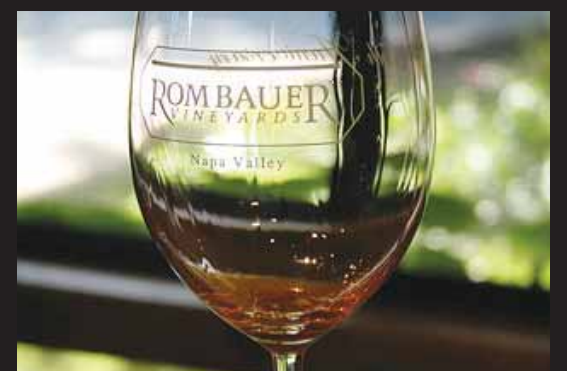


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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Having people who are prepared in a disaster is a huge benefit to police, fire and other first responders. ”

—Town Emergency Services Manager Greg Gilbert, citing the need for training. See story, page 5.

Friday Morning with the Mayor

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will be hosting her last monthly Morning with the Mayor on Friday, Nov. 7. This is an informal opportunity for residents to share their thoughts about town issues, ask questions, and receive a brief update about what is happening in Danville. Andersen's turn as mayor ends Dec. 2.

The free event is held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Father Nature's Restaurant, 172 E. Prospect Ave. Coffee or hot chocolate, fruit bowls and English muffins are served.

Bike Drive changes lives

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville's annual bike drive begins tomorrow.

Volunteers are collecting bikes in need of minor repairs such as flat tires and ripped seats to repair and safety check, then distribute to various Adopt a Family programs in the East Bay. This year the repair team will be led by Joseph Hui, who asks anyone interested in helping to contact him at AdoptAFamilyBikes@gmail.com.

For the recipients, these bikes are often their only means of transportation to work or school. Last year a homeless man who received a bike said he was grateful because he wouldn't "have to be on my feet all the time now."

Bikes can be left at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Road, from Nov. 1-15. Bikes may be left behind the Parish Hall; tax receipts are available in an envelope on the wall.

Bikes can be dropped off at 1901 Camino Ramon Suite C in San Ramon (two doors down from Boswell's) from 4-6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15; and 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16. They request no rusted bikes.

Trustees name new head at Athenian

Change is in the wind at the Athenian School. Members of the school's Board of Trustees at their Oct 22 meeting approved the appointment of Eric Niles as the new Head of School.

Niles is currently the Assistant Head of School at the Emma Willard School in New York. Niles will replace Eleanor Dase, who will be retiring after 34 years at the school. She has been the Athenian's Head of School for the past 16 years.

Niles expressed enthusiasm at being chosen to take on that responsibility. "In my visits to campus I have been struck by the passion and compassion that Athenian students bring to their learning," he said. "This speaks to the intentional way Athenian carries out its mission, educating students to be citizens of the world through extraordinary academics and real-world experiences."

Dase will step down at the end of this school year. Niles is expected to begin as the school's new Head on July 1, 2009.

Board members say in honor of Dase's contribution to the school, a new multi-purpose building under construction has been named the Eleanor Dase Center. It will house the school's music program as well as providing a place for sports practice, assemblies and meetings.

Correction in Dining Guide

The telephone number for Chow Restaurant in the Danville Weekly dining guide should be 838-4510.

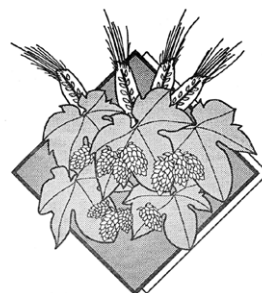
The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

In Loving Memory



On Nov. 5th of last year our dear Sherry left us. Your loving memory, kindness and compassion lives on in all our hearts.

We miss you Sherry Treadwell



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Alamo's fate in hands of voters

by Geoff Gillette

With little fanfare and no discussion, members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to put Alamo incorporation on the March 3 ballot.

LAFCO held a special session Oct. 21 and denied a motion of reconsideration. That action moved the request on to the supervisors as part of their consent agenda.

At their Oct 28 meeting, the

Board unanimously approved putting the question on the ballot.

Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, who also serves as a commissioner on LAFCO, said Tuesday's action was strictly protocol.

"This is a routine task, a formality that has to occur to now confirm LAFCO's recommendation." She added that all the approval of the commission and the board means is the fate of Alamo now rests squarely in the hands of the voters.

"They will get to go to the polls in March and decide whether or not they want to be a town."

Supervisors put Alamo incorporation on March ballot

At their Oct. 21 meeting, Uilkema and fellow commissioner Helen Allen disagreed about what message it sends when LAFCO gives its approval to an incorporation request. For Uilkema, it means that LAFCO has completed its job.

"The vote of LAFCO indicates that we did comply with state law and did the proper analysis," she said.

Helen Allen said she feels the approval of LAFCO actually carries with it greater weight than simply completing a task.

"When we approve this request it means we think the numbers are right," she said. "That it is financially feasible. That is an endorsement."

Allen, the lone No in the original vote chose to abstain when the issue came up for reconsideration. "I knew if I voted with them to deny reconsideration it would look like I agreed that this would work."

Allen has questioned the financial figures given in the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis provided by LAFCO, saying she does not think the new town will have the fiscal resources its supporters are expecting.

Uilkema pointed to the commission staff's recommendation, which said the incorporation plan is workable. "When we approve it, we are just saying the plan is feasible," she said. "We are not saying Alamo should or shouldn't be a town. That's up to the voters to decide." ■



CONTRIBUTED BY THE SCHMIEGEL FAMILY

'I grew it myself!'

Sophia Schmiegel, 2-1/2, loves the pumpkin she grew in the yard of her grandparents Sandy and Ray Gambucci in Danville. She and Grandpa Ray planted the seeds last year and since then Sophia and her little brother Tyler have enjoyed seeing the pumpkin grow.

DOLORES FOX CHARDELLI

Council hears updated emergency plan

by Geoff Gillette

Efforts to develop an overall emergency plan for the town of Danville continue to move forward. At their Oct. 21 meeting, members of the Town Council were updated on how the plan is progressing and where it may be going.

Town Emergency Services Manager Greg Gilbert presented the plan to council members and explained how they are moving forward.

"As part of our ongoing evaluation of the Town's emergency services and readiness, the Emergency

Operations Plan (EOP) was reviewed and updated to reflect changes that occur on a local, state and national level," he told them.

Gilbert said every city in California is required to have an emergency plan that meets the federal and state guidelines and is integrated with the county's emergency plan.

Some of the changes that have been made to the plan include the addition of the Short Ridge Area on the northern edge of Sycamore Valley as a High Fire Area; added the position of Emergency Services Manager to the EOP; and a resolution to designate and appoint standby officers for the members of the Town Council in the event of an emergency.

More people need to be trained to help first responders

Gilbert said that national disasters such as those caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the terrorist attacks of 9/11 have caused the government to step up its efforts to have local and state governments prepared for disasters.

There is also a need for additional help for first responders. Gilbert said the town has seen a spike in attendance for the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and PEP (Personal Emergency Preparedness) training and he thinks that will be a help in the event of an emergency.

"Over 500 people in the valley have gone through CERT training," he said. "Having people who are prepared in a disaster is a huge benefit to police, fire and other first responders."

The emergency plan has been updated to include the CERT and PEP training profiles and the number of people who have been through the training.

One of the main changes to the plan is that it takes a broader scope. Where early iterations of the plan dealt specifically with earthquakes, newer versions deal with fires, floods and manmade disasters.

"We're taking an all-hazards approach," said Gilbert. "Our plan needs to be flexible enough to respond to all of these incidents, not just one or two." ■



GEOFF GILLETTE

William Zak, a stunt bike rider from the team Perfection on Wheels shows his skills to students during a PTA sponsored Red Ribbon Week assembly at Green Valley Elementary School. In one stunt Zak does a complete backflip off of a box ramp.

Red Ribbon Week features healthy messages at schools

Speaker at Charlotte Wood urges middle-schoolers to use hearts and brains

by Geoff Gillette

Red Ribbon week is an annual event held at schools around the nation, during which students are urged to make the right choices. In many cases the discussion centers on drug awareness, nutrition and physical fitness. Students at Charlotte Wood Middle School were treated to a program that addressed not only their physical well-being, but their mental and social well being too.

Nationally renowned inspirational speaker Michael Pritchard spoke in two assemblies Friday at Charlotte Wood, addressing the entire student body on a wide range of topics. Pritchard started as a stand-up comedian and has gone on to turn his humor and intellect to focus on the pressures and issues facing today's youth.

At the Charlotte Wood Assembly, Pritchard used humorous anecdotes to show the gathered students that turning off their computers and iPods and getting outside and exercising is a great choice. His straightforward means of address kept many of the students riveted. Some whose concentration started to wander found themselves the center of attention when Pritchard shouted at them: "Focus!"

Bullying and teasing were two topics that received a great deal of attention. Pritchard talked about how social pressures cause relationships to change.

"Do you remember when you were all in



second and third grade together? And you were all friends and it didn't matter what you looked like?" he said. "But now in order to be popular you dump all those kids who were your best friends. Your best friends? For what?"

Pritchard exhorted the students to do more than thinking at school.

"When you're at school you're supposed to use your brains, right? Well, I want you all to use your heart," he said. "Think about how

your actions make other people feel. How are you affecting the people around you?"

In both performances he ended with having students come to the microphone and talk about their feelings and how they have been made to feel. One student got up in front of his peers to apologize to those gathered for being a bully. Another talked of how it hurt when people teased him about his height and his teeth.

One boy summed up the entire experience



Inspirational speaker Michael Pritchard addresses teens at Charlotte Wood Middle School. Pritchard talked to the kids about Red Ribbon Week, making the right choices and thinking with your heart as well as your brain.

when expressing his feelings about being called gay. When asked by Pritchard what he hoped people would take away from the assembly, he said, "Hope. I want every here to feel hope and belonging. That feeling of acceptance."

Pritchard built on those words, urging students to reach out to one another.

"If you see someone who's obviously having a rough time, ask them if you can help," he said. "Don't just walk away." ■

What Do You Know About Proposition 8? —The Marriage Amendment—

Next Tuesday, when deciding how to vote on Proposition 8, please consider the statements of the three Supreme Court Justices who wrote dissenting opinions in opposition to the decision to legalize same-sex marriage—which decision overturned the law previously enacted by 61% of California voters.

Justice Baxter & Justice Chin

"So far, Congress, and virtually every court to consider the issue, has rejected it. Nothing in our Constitution, express or implicit, compels the majority's startling conclusion that the age-old understanding of marriage — an understanding recently confirmed by an initiative law — is no longer valid."

"California statutes already recognize same-sex unions and grant them all the substantive legal rights this state can bestow."

"The question presented by this case is simple and stark. It comes down to this: Even though California's progressive laws, recently adopted through the democratic process, have pioneered the rights of same-sex partners to enter legal unions with all the substantive benefits of opposite-sex legal unions, do those laws nonetheless violate the California Constitution because at present, in deference to long and universal tradition, by a convincing popular vote, and in accord with express national policy (see fns. 1, 2, ante), they reserve the label "marriage" for opposite-sex legal unions? I must conclude that the answer is no."

"...a bare majority of this court, not satisfied with the pace of democratic change, now abruptly forestalls that process and substitutes, by judicial fiat, its own social policy views for those expressed by the People themselves. Undeterred by the strong weight of state and federal law and authority, the majority invents a new constitutional right, immune from the ordinary process of legislative consideration. The majority finds that our Constitution suddenly demands no less than a permanent redefinition of marriage, regardless of the popular will."

"The majority has violated these principles. It simply does not have the right to erase, then recast, the age-old definition of marriage, as virtually all societies have understood it, in order to satisfy its own contemporary notions of equality and justice."

Justice Corrigan

"But I, and this court, must acknowledge that a majority of Californians hold a different view, and have explicitly said so by their vote. This court can overrule a vote of the people only if the Constitution compels us to do so. Here, the Constitution does not. Therefore, I must dissent."

"It is important to be clear. Under California law, domestic partners have "virtually all of the same substantive legal benefits and privileges" available to traditional spouses. (Maj. opn., ante, at p. 45.) I believe the Constitution requires this as a matter of equal protection. However, the single question in this case is whether domestic partners have a constitutional right to the name of "marriage." Proposition 22 was enacted only eight years ago. By a substantial majority the people voted to recognize, as "marriage," only those unions between a man and a woman. (Fam. Code, § 308.5.) The majority concludes that the voters' decision to retain the traditional definition of marriage is unconstitutional. I disagree."

"Domestic partnerships and marriages have the same legal standing, granting to both heterosexual and homosexual couples a societal recognition of their lifelong commitment."

"The legitimate purpose of the statutes defining marriage is to preserve the traditional understanding of the institution. For that purpose, plaintiffs are not similarly situated with spouses. While their unions are of equal legal dignity, they are different because they join partners of the same gender. Plaintiffs are in the process of founding a new tradition, unfettered by the boundaries of the old one."

"The majority ignores the fact that plaintiffs already have those rights and privileges under the DPA. The majority aptly articulates how domestic partnerships and marriages are the same. But it fails to recognize that this case involves only the names of those unions. The fact that plaintiffs enjoy equal substantive rights does not situate them similarly with married couples in terms of the traditional designation of marriage."

in Re Marriage Cases, 43 Cal. 4th 757 (2008) (emphasis added)

Preserve Marriage—Vote Yes on Prop 8

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DOLores FOX CARDELLI

'Be safe, come home soon'

Libby Ward, 5, copies a letter to a soldier in Iraq, saying, "Be safe, come home soon," at the St. Isidore Book Fair held during the weekend in the school gym. A table was set up both days for shoppers to donate energy bars, book and magazines to send to the troops in conjunction with the Blue Star Moms collections, and materials were on hand for people to write notes.

Council approves parking change

Traffic clog near St. Isidore's prompts action

by Geoff Gillette

In an attempt to defuse traffic jams on La Gonda Way, members of the Danville Town Council approved plans to make a section of La Gonda in front of St. Isidore school a no-parking zone at the beginning and end of the school day.

Nazanin Shakerin, Danville Senior Transportation Engineer, said the issue was brought to the attention of the town by administrators at St. Isidore.

"They came to us asking for help and we took the steps to make these restrictions," she said.

Currently, there are spaces for parking on both sides of La Gonda near Ryland Cottages. Shakerin said

that from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. traffic becomes very slow through that area because parents are dropping off their children. The issue stems from cars parked on the east side of La Gonda that block access for northbound vehicles to El Cerro.

Councilman Mike Doyle said he has driven that area during the problem times and it needs to be addressed.

"That's been a mess forever," he said. "That section becomes a bottleneck and the parking there makes it impossible to access the right turn lane."

Shakerin said town crews observed traffic along that route and noted that during the day there

were more than 4,000 vehicles using La Gonda Way. Staff recommended making those parking spots "no parking" during those two timeslots.

Council members discussed a number of options, including a complete parking restriction in that area before coming back to the original proposal. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Shakerin said she is pleased by the result.

"We're not taking out parking, we're just restricting," she noted. "People will still be able to park there at the other times."

Town crews are expected to install the signs on La Gonda within the next few weeks. ■

Common sense for trick-or-treating

Danville police offer rules to keep spooky night of fun from turning tragic

by Geoff Gillette

As the sun sinks below the horizon and the Princesses and Jedi take to the streets on Halloween night, Danville police are asking parents to follow some simple rules for trick-or-treating.

Community Service Officer Shawn Desmond said that it's all common sense. "You want to make sure the kids carry a flashlight, and they wear bright costumes or costumes with reflective gear so they can be seen by approaching traffic" she explained.

Desmond said that children should always be accompanied by an adult and should stick to well lit homes and homes where the person is known to the parents.

As for the treats themselves, watch out for candies or snacks that appear to have been tampered with. Desmond said to watch for:

- Candy not wrapped correctly
- Candy where the wrapper has been opened
- Homemade candy unless you know the maker personally

Parents are urged to carefully examine their children's treats. If

anything suspicious is found, contact the police at 820-2441.

"The main thing is to try to remember where items came from," Desmond said. "When I trick-or-treat with my kids I try to pay attention to what they got as we go along."

Halloween is also a time of mischief making, when trees are festooned with toilet paper and pumpkins are smashed on the street. Desmond asks residents to keep their eyes open. "If you see someone out lurking around, give the Police Department a call and report it." ■

Vet Hall renovation meetings begin

Mayor hopes to break ground before 2010

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The new Veterans Building Steering Committee was scheduled to meet for the first time at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, to begin planning the renovation or rebuilding of the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Danville. All meetings are open to the public.

“One thing we’ll be discussing is getting on an aggressive schedule,” said Mayor Candace Andersen last Friday. “We hope within nine months to have the building designed.”

“The first order of business is hiring the correct historic architect to help guide us through this process,” she continued. “Because we do have the money set aside we would like to start building as soon as possible, because we want to take advantage of the fact that there are many construction companies that could use work in this current economy.”

“Realistically I don’t think we could break ground before 2010,” she added.

An improved veterans’ facility has been a matter of concern for some time as it became clear that the 1925 building on Hartz Avenue at Prospect needs retrofitting, is acoustically inadequate, and does not serve the needs of the veteran population and seniors.

The Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee of the San Ramon Valley was founded to solve the problem; its members searched the valley for an appropriate location for a new veterans facility and decided that the current site is best. It remains to be determined whether to tear down the standing Vets Hall, to attempt to preserve the historic building, or something in between.

“Most people I talk to recognize the historic significance of the building,” said Andersen, but at the same time want to provide a state of the art facility for the veterans and a senior center.

Meanwhile, Contra Costa County transferred ownership of the building to the Town of Danville in exchange for \$200,000 with the agreement that it will continue to be used primarily for veterans. The Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee of the San Ramon Valley is now focused on fundraising, having pledged to raise \$3 million toward the project. The town has appropriated \$5 million.

The new Veterans Building Steering Committee has 10 members appointed from commissions and the Town Council:

- Candace Andersen and Newell Arnerich—Town of Danville
- Scott Perkins and John Estes—Veterans
- Robert Storer and Robert Combs—Planning Commission/Design Review Board
- Lee Halverson and Patty Dobbin—Danville Heritage

“One thing we’ll be discussing is getting on an aggressive schedule. We hope within nine months to have the building designed.”

—Mayor Candace Andersen

Resource Commission

- Kevin Donovan and Kent Rezowalli—Senior Subcommittee of Parks and Leisure

The Steering Committee will oversee planning and architectural design, working with the architectural consultant, and make design recommendations to the Town Council.

“The council will ultimately have to balance the size and scope of the project,” said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo.

Calabrigo said its mandate will be to meet the needs of both the town’s veteran population and the seniors who presently use the existing facility, and to stay within whatever budget is established by the town.

Wednesday’s meeting was to take place at the Vets Hall, 400 Hartz Ave.

“The first order of business is hiring the architect,” said Andersen. “Then we can decide, can we remodel, restore or do a renovation.” ■

TAKE US ALONG



Sicilian adventure

Bill and Muff Curry and Herb and Marcia Steinhardt take in the sites in Monreale, Sicily, last fall—with their Danville Weekly.



On safari

Kathie Thompson and Dotti Lovato on a 21-day vacation in South Africa where they enjoyed the giraffes and baby lions in Kruger National Park, as well as their Danville Weekly.



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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



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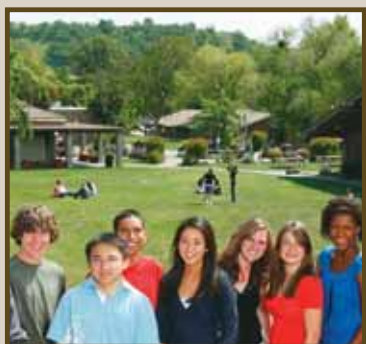
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Body parts belong on bodies

“**W**hen did Halloween get to be a month-long holiday?” asked the grouchy old lady. “It’s getting as bad as Christmas.” Decorations in front yards, orange lights on walkways, spider webs in the workplace—all done weeks in advance.

That grouchy old lady would be me. Bah. Humbug. Or whatever is the Halloween equivalent.

When I was young my mother would buy a pumpkin along with the groceries. The night before Halloween we would spread out newspapers on the sink, clean out the pumpkin and create a jolly jack-o-lantern. Then we’d put it in our window with a candle burning inside as our sole decoration.

My sister and I would assemble costumes from our closets—and those of our parents. We were gypsies, grownup ladies, pirates with homemade eye-patches and backward scarves, hobos with faces blackened with burnt corks.

No dismembered body parts were involved. The holiday was a favorite of mine, even before getting the candy.

When my children were young, it was the same. We assembled costumes from around the house or what I could sew together with a simple needle and thread. One of my favorites was when my daughter Zoe was a tube of toothpaste, inspired by a white plastic flower pot with ridges that reminded her of a toothpaste cap. We used an old white sheet and she cut out red and blue cardboard letters to spell Crest. The collar was cardboard, too, and yes, I admit, we did buy the cardboard especially for the occasion.

Carving pumpkins was always a fun ritual and I’d pick out two fat ones for the kids to carve. During one domestic phase I even roasted the seeds. A neighbor used to assemble a really scary haunted house. The trick-or-treaters loved to walk through the flashing lights while viewing creepy posters. The mom, dressed in black and wielding a whip, would accompany the children through. She told me it was a bit surprising how many of the dads offered to let her whip them.

We did buy accessories through the years—a witch hat purchased when Zoe was 3 comes to mind. I also admit that once in a moment of weakness a few years ago I bought a little witch hat for my miniature American Eskimo, Mickey. She always loved the trick-or-treaters who came to our house and they loved petting her, so I had the idea that when we answered the door my cute little dog would be wearing a cute little witch hat. Wrong! My cute little dog showed a surprising amount of dog pride and refused to have

anything to do with the hat. I gave the hat away to another owner of a cute little dog. And I resolved never again to be swayed by the massive dog/Halloween industry.

It is an industry, and adult Halloween costumes are as popular as those for children. I can’t even begin to picture my parents in costumes. But through the years my husband and I have gone to parties where costumes were required and we managed to come up with something. For the last one, Jim wore a Bill Clinton mask that someone had given as a gag gift and I dressed as Monica Lewinsky. My main memories of the party are how bad I looked in that black wig, and my husband going around saying, “I did not have sex with that woman.” And how cute my friend Rosemary looked dressed as a gypsy, a costume probably assembled from her closet. I should have stuck to the old rules.

But the most shocking thing to me is the gory decorations that are cropping up in some of my neighbors’ yards. Giant spider webs I can understand. But skulls on spikes a la “Apocalypse Now”? At the homes of preschoolers? Are our kids becoming desensitized or are they just plagued by nightmares?

Halloween is the second biggest holiday, consumer-spending wise. Considering the competition—Easter, Fourth of July, Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day—maybe this isn’t too alarming. I guess it’s good for the economy if people are spending money so I shouldn’t complain. Maybe I’ll cheer up when I start eating my leftover candy.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at
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EXCERPTS FROM TOWN SQUARE

Online views about Prop 8

Nobody likes to think of him/herself as bigoted, but it is impossible to escape the fact that Prop 8 denies full social participation to a significant minority of our fellow Californians.

To sustain your “hate the sin/love the sinner” argument, you must decide that homosexuality is a “lifestyle choice,” rather than an innate feature of one’s makeup. It’s not, any more than your or my heterosexual orientation is. It really is like, say, skin color, gender or even handedness—would you deny equality on any of those bases? One of my favorite cartoons shows Dad and son, sitting on the edge of the boy’s bed, and Dad says: “Son, I think it’s time we chose your sexual orientation.” Do you really think it works like that?

Constitutions are precious, and there’s not enough love in the world. Why would we go way out of our way to institutionalize exclusion and bigotry? CA has always stood for inclusion and acceptance. Please vote “No” and keep our state open on an equal basis to all who choose love.

Posted by Tom Cushing, a resident of the Danville neighborhood

All laws, propositions, amendments, etc. are, in fact, the process of distributing or re-distributing rights. Each voter is obliged to consider the short and long-term consequences of each measure. In some societies, the tradition is to try to calculate the impact on the seventh generation.

I’ve calculated as best I can. I understand rights for many parties are at stake. This is not a shallow issue of “it won’t hurt anyone” or “equal rights for all.” There is no such thing ... just ask your kids. We all try to be fair, but equality is not an option when so many complex rights are woven into our democracy. Let’s not be silly and pretend that Prop 8 is a “simple matter of equality.” Yes, the rights of gays are in question. But this is also a question of religious freedom, and freedom of speech—these are two of our fundamentals, folks. They are worth protecting even if we are no longer as religious as we used to be.

I strongly support Prop 8 because a Yes vote on 8 does a better job than a No vote on 8 in ensuring the best, the most fair balance of rights.

Notin’s perfect, nothing is equal. But Prop 8 is fair. Let’s be fair.

Posted by Rulon McKay, 6-year resident of Danville

When mostly rational and reasonable people put their stamp of approval on labeling a group of people as different and therefore excluding them from a right based on who they are ... it validates and lends credence to those who desire a much more sinister version of this labeling and exclusion. Our society carries many prejudices against gays and lesbians, so with your vote to support Prop 8 are you helping to feed those prejudices or helping to quell those prejudices? Will your gay and lesbian friends and family be better off after your vote to support Prop 8 or not? This vote is not about your rights—those will remain the same whether or not the Prop passes.

We are all judged by the company that we keep. Spending time with your gay and lesbian friends and family is great, but deserting them when you should be standing up for them is not loving. It is shameful.

Posted by Grengal, a resident of the Danville neighborhood

The Prop 8 must pass to have civility in the society. The marriage must be between a man and a woman. At the same time, people with all kinds of sexual orientation must be respected and their rights protected. If the same sex couples ask for the same rights as heterosexual couples, then it makes sense. But please do not call it a “marriage.” It is not. It is that person’s choice. The Prop 8 does not discriminate anyone. It just states that the marriage is between a man and a woman. How can the generations multiply if it is recognized this way? There will be no reproduction, which is one of the main purposes of a marriage. Do we want our little children, in elementary school, to learn about same sex marriages?

Posted by Paul, a resident of the San Ramon neighborhood

Town Square is a public forum at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop childish behavior

Dear Editor:

This year’s presidential campaign is a very passionate campaign on both the Democrat and Republican side—understandably so. Both campaigns should (and I emphasize should) be respectful of our right to freedom of expression/speech.

As a Republican backing John McCain, I find it unbelievable that here in Danville people would be so disrespectful, immature and insecure that some fringe groups

are literally ripping signs down. On Saturday morning we woke to find that eggs had been thrown at the house and the McCain sign was bent on our lawn. The police were notified and they said others also have had this happen. We replaced the sign on the corner of Blackhawk Road and Camino Tassajara and it was stolen from there again, too.

I ask all involved to stop this childish and insecure behavior and let people decide for themselves.

Marion K., Danville

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Election Day

At last it’s time to vote. Voters began to cast their ballots by mail in early October but this Tuesday, Nov. 4, is Election Day.

Voting by mail is increasing each year as voters discover the convenience of it as opposed to showing up at the poll booth either before or after work, barring an emergency or illness; election officials encourage mail-in voting to save on the cost of maintaining polling places.

In this year’s California primary, 42 percent, or 9 million, of the votes cast were mailed in. This is up from 25 percent 10 years ago. Twenty years ago it was only 9 percent. And 30 years ago it was 5 percent. Starting January 2002, voters have been able to apply for permanent vote-by-mail status to have their mail-in ballots automatically sent to them for all future elections.

When completed ballots are received in the county Election Department, the signature on the envelope is checked against that of the registration form, then the ballot is separated from the envelope and it is intermingled anonymously with the other ballots. This guarantees secrecy. The Election Department will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 1, for people to request or return a ballot.

As of Oct. 21, Contra Costa County had 527,145 registered voters, broken down into:

Democrat: 263,853

Republican: 140,864

Other: 122,428

This should make for an interesting election as we see what direction the much discussed “undecideds” go.

This year we also are anticipating the Bradley effect for reasons besides race. This name came from the 1982 election when African-American Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, a Democrat, lost the election for governor after polls showed him the winner. Voters apparently lied to polltakers because they did not want to admit their racist feelings. In this election, there are many reasons to lie to polltakers: racism, disappointment in a party’s platform, or going against your friends’ opinions or your church’s teachings on state Prop 8.

If you haven’t already, be sure to vote.

Weekly recommendations

Danville Town Council

Candace Andersen
Newell Arnerich
Mike Doyle

Measure WW

Vote Yes

15th District Assembly

Joan Buchanan

11th Congressional District

Jerry McNerney

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IN THE spirit OF THINGS

Danville 'intuitive counselor' helps clients clear negative energy from their lives

by Geoff Gillette

Some call it the unseen world, the hidden eye or the paranormal. Karen Cooper calls it her office.

Working out of a small, cozy space off Diablo Road, Cooper makes her living as a "Spiritual Mentor," helping clients deal with issues and energies beyond the norm.

"I don't like the term 'psychic,'" she explained. "It's very sensationalistic. It's not what I am. I primarily work as a clairvoyant. When people come to me it's not about fortune telling, it's about personal growth."

Cooper said that when she meets someone and tries to explain what it is she does that she inevitably ends up saying she is a professional psychic.

"The reactions vary, but almost everyone has a story to tell. Whether it's someone who has crossed over or just a feeling that they couldn't explain," she said.

Everyone has some level of psychic ability, according to Cooper, but not everyone's are well developed enough to be anything more than vague hunches or feelings. "It's like everybody can dance, but some people just can do it better."

From an early age Cooper said she felt things and understood things that she couldn't explain, but it wasn't until she took courses in meditation and psychic tools that things began to fall together. Fourteen years ago she decided to hang out her shingle as an Intuitive Counselor.

With three other women, she established her first office in the Vecki house on Front Street. Cooper said they really didn't advertise but people just seemed to find them. "They'd come through the door, not really sure why and we would help them. Sometimes they didn't even know there was a problem."

One case in particular left a lasting impression. "I performed an exorcism at my office on Front Street. It started out like so many others, this girl came in," Cooper recalled. "She didn't really know how she found me. She made an appointment and came in."

Cooper said that just a simple examination of the young woman filled her with concern. "She was possessed by a negative energy. I looked at her and the energy that came through her was so threatening."

Interviewing the woman, Cooper came to understand that her client's family was deeply involved in the negative side of Santeria, an Afro-Cuban religious tradition derived

from beliefs of the Yoruba people from what is now known as Nigeria. Cooper said the entity within the young woman was so powerful that she could see physical manifestations of its presence within her client.

"She was not even aware of it, but at times the negative energy coming out of her was so powerful that her eyes would change, her face would change. Her features were sharper, angrier. And then a second later she would be fine and not even know it had been there."

Concerns about the power of the entity and the safety of her client prompted Cooper to perform an exorcism to remove the negative spirit. She declined to describe what measures she used in the process but said it is a cooperative effort.

"I called on Source for aid and was empowered. I felt empowered to remove this entity. It wasn't an exorcism in the Linda Blair sense, but I cleaned a threatening dark energy away from her." She added, "She actually released it herself. I was just the conductor who helped her to be rid of it."

When it was finished, the young woman seemed confused. Cooper said she took a few dollars out of her pocket along with some change to pay and then left. A few days later she called. "I didn't know if I'd hear from her. She called me to tell me how her life had changed. She described how she was always angry before but now she feels much better."

Not all of Cooper's cases involve exorcisms or physical manifestations. "I get people from all walks of life," she said, "there's no certain type of person who comes to me.

Some see me in crisis, some come every month like a psychic checkup."

A typical session consists of Cooper sitting in her large comfortable chair and the client sitting in one of two other chairs in the room. And they talk. Cooper listens and examines the energy of the client, determining what they may be experiencing. Sometimes a negative spirit will have attached itself.

There are many crystals and symbols in the office, and Cooper said they help her to focus on the task of dealing with these spirit entities. "A lot of people will use rituals and objects. I just tap into the energy itself, communicate with the spirit and ask it to go."

Cooper said that much of what the world considers as ghosts is actually energy left behind by those who have crossed over. In some cases, the energy is active and will

"I don't like the term 'psychic.' It's very sensationalistic. It's not what I am. I primarily work as a clairvoyant. When people come to me it's not about fortune telling, it's about personal growth."

—Karen Cooper
spiritual mentor



GEOFF GILLETTE



GEOFF GILLETTE



GEOFF GILLETTE



CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN COOPER

Clockwise from left: Crystals adorn a tabletop near where clairvoyant Karen Cooper sits for her sessions; the Vecki House on Front Street - when Cooper's offices were in the Vecki House, she saw the image of a man in the second floor window; a photo provided by a patient of Cooper's who, while scouting locations for a movie, snapped this photo at an abandoned children's hospital and was startled to see the misty apparition that appeared.

attach itself to people or places. In other cases the energy is somewhat like a hologram. A three-dimensional picture that never really changes.

"You hear the story about the Civil War ghost who walks down the hill at the same time every night. That's a hologram. They've left an energy imprint, like when you lie down in the sand and then you get up. There's an imprint left behind," she explained.

Events can create energy. Violence can lead to a negative spirit staying behind to haunt a location. Strong emotion can also lead to that so sometimes you will get a positive spirit inhabiting a location. "When you walk into a room and you suddenly just feel comfortable, there's a spirit in there making you feel welcome," Cooper explained.

But the key behind it all is energy, either positive or negative, and according to Cooper it manifests itself in countless ways. "If you are in a room and the candles flicker for no reason that is a spirit saying hello. They attach themselves to people and things. Sometimes because it is what they know or where they feel comfortable."

Are there spirits/ghosts/entities here in Danville? Cooper says there are. "I've seen an entity in the upstairs window of our old office on Front Street. It is a male, dressed in clothes from the late 1800s or early 1900s."

The Vecki house was built in 1866 for a man named Michael Cohen. It was purchased in 1906 by Dr. Victor John Vecki, who lived there for several years with his family.

Cooper also said she feels there are many spirits at the Danville Hotel. "The hotel always felt really thick to me. It's full of a lot of entities." She added, "Any time you have any old town or building they will have something in them. And they won't all be bad."

Cooper said the main reason people don't often see them is training. It's a matter of training your mind to recognize the energy that it is experiencing. "It's like a magic eye picture. You pull back from the picture and shift your vision."

This time of the year always brings with it more calls and questions, many from the media, but Cooper said there is a reason our minds venture toward the mysterious

in mid-fall.

"Certain times of the year, the veil between the living and the dead is thinner," she explained. "It has nothing to do with Satan or the devil. It's about honoring our ancestors."

While interest in the paranormal always spikes at Halloween, evidence in the media suggests that belief in the paranormal is becoming more mainstream and accepted. Cooper agrees. "If you see Oprah talking about it you know it must be out in the mainstream media. But that belief has always been there. The media are just making it more accepted. As for why people are so into it right now, I think it's because we're all searching for something deep within."

Cooper said it's easy to dismiss psychic phenomena or the belief in spirits and energy as "New Age," but she feels there is nothing new about it. "I laugh when people talk about this as 'New Age.' It's not. It's been around since the beginning of time in every single culture. This is how they did things before the Renaissance, when we still had that connection to the Earth and the universe." ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Police suspect Internet prostitution

A routine traffic stop resulted in the arrests of two teenagers on prostitution charges, and could lead to further charges in what police say may be an Internet prostitution operation.

Lt. Mark Williams of the Danville Police Department said the incident occurred at 1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, at the Best Western Motel on Camino Ramon. K-9 Officer Mike Ireland was on routine patrol when he saw four people getting into a vehicle outside the motel. The individuals seemed nervous and in a hurry to leave the motel parking lot.

Ireland ran the plates on the vehicle, which came back with no file. In making a second attempt to run the plates, Ireland noticed that the vehicle was missing its front plate, so he affected a traffic stop.

When two of the females gave Ireland false names he asked all four to exit the vehicle while his K-9 partner Donna conducted an exterior search of the vehicle. When the dog indicated it smelled something in the trunk a search was done, turning up a small amount of marijuana and a notebook containing payment information for sexual services, according to police reports.

The two women, both juveniles from Fresno, were taken into custody where they later admitted to prostitution, according to records. They are both being held on prostitution charges at Juvenile Hall in Martinez, as well as giving false information to a police officer. Drug possession charges were filed against one of the pair.

Williams said the investigation leads them to believe the four-some placed ads on Internet sites like Craigslist seeking clients for prostitution. He said they would stay in one place if they were making money, if not they would move on.

Investigators have contacted the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office and are seeking charges against the male and older female as pimps for the two juveniles. The pair could face charges of pimping a minor, reckless endangerment of juveniles, enticing a juvenile for prostitution, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, Oct. 20

- Animal control needed on El Cerro Blvd./Nugget Ct. at 9:21 a.m.
- Petty theft of vehicle parts on 1900 block of Camino Ramon Pl. at 9:26 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 100 block of Estates Dr. at 1:29 p.m.
- Grand theft on 1000 block of McCauley Rd. at 3:29 p.m.
- Trespassing on 100 block of William Ct. at 3:29 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 200 block of Valley Creek Ln. at 10:04 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

- Credit card fraud on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:34 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on 1000 block of El Capitan Dr. at 11:13 a.m.
- Music disturbance on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:13 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Diablo Rd./Front St. at 7:08 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

- Auto burglary on 2000 block of Fostoria Circle at 12:10 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop on El Cerro Blvd./El Quanito Dr. at 3:46 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on Diablo Rd./Green Valley Rd. at 4 p.m.
- Public nuisance on 200 block of Lowell Ct. at 7:12 p.m.
- Vandalism on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 8:51 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 23

- Drugs violation on 300 block of Illo Ln. at 11:52 a.m.
- Identity theft on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:48 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with minor injuries on Iron Horse Trail/W. Prospect Ave. at 3:26 p.m.
- Petty theft on 500 block of Park Hill Rd. at 5:24 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24

- Loitering disturbance on 200 block of Valley Creek Ln. at 7:59 a.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Panorama Ct. at 10:18 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on 2500 block of Camino Tassajara at 4:30 p.m.
- Littering on 100 block of Adair Ct. at 6:34 p.m.
- Reckless driving on 700 block of Tunbridge Rd. at 10:07 p.m.
- Battery, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 11:13 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25

- Party disturbance on 300 block of Garden Creek Pl. at 12:42 a.m.
- Vandalism on 1500 block of St. Helena Dr. at 9:24 a.m.
- Identity theft on 800 block of Richard Ln. at 11:44 a.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 100 block of Diablo Rd. at 2:56 p.m.
- Arson on 100 block of Dove Creek Ln. at 3:10 p.m.
- Music disturbance on Camino Tassajara/Woodranch Dr. at 3:30 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 100 block of Leeds Ct. East at 7:28 p.m.

Judith M. Sobey

Judith M. Sobey, a resident of Danville, died in September at the age of 70.

She was valedictorian of Oakland High School's class of 1955 and accepted with Honors at Stanford University; she went on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees. Upon graduation from Stanford, she devoted herself to teaching, and in her 40 years within the Fremont Unified School District received Certificates of Recognition from the California Legislature and California Senate, as well as 1993's Teacher of the Year Award. Work created in her art programs for mentally disabled children received numerous accolades.

She is survived by her sons Jeremy Hainline and Martin Sobey, daughter Kelly Nicholas; brother Edward; daughter-in-law Sandy; nephews Steven, Scott, Mark and Todd; and three grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held Sept. 17 in Mountain View Cemetery's Tower Chapel in Oakland.

Ethel Ruth Helms

Ethel Ruth Helms, a resident of Alamo, died Sept. 27 with her two daughters by her side, at the age of 85.

She was born Jan. 7, 1923, in St. Louis, Mo., to Charles and Naomi Shockey. She married Leland Helms and after World War II, they moved from Moorhead, Minn., to Los Angeles where they raised their family of three children. She was known as an individual of great personal warmth, generosity and faith, and possessed an enduring sense of humor.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Leland Chester Helms. She is survived by her three children, Pat Gulliford of Alamo; Paul Helms of Sausalito; and Suzanne Helms of Seattle, Wash.; and three grandchildren. Memorial services were held Oct. 4. Donations may be made to the local Salvation Army, since her children said she recalled the organization helping her family during the Great Depression.

Betty Jean Bacon

Betty Jean Bacon, 85, a former resident of Danville and Pacheco, died in Citrus Heights on Sept. 21.

She was born Feb. 18, 1923, in Fremont, Neb., to Allan and Mattie Dykeman. She was a longtime resident of Danville and member of Soroptimist International of

Pleasant Hill.

She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin and her sister Vera Gray. She is survived by daughter Anne (Richard) Wickersham of Orangevale, Calif.; and sister Beryl Jackman of Meridian, Idaho. A memorial service was held Oct. 3 at Oak Park Hills Chapel in Walnut Creek.

Edward Joseph Klicpera

Edward Joseph Klicpera, a Danville resident, died suddenly at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Walnut Creek on Sept. 28 at the age of 88.

He was born Dec. 5, 1919, in Cicero, Ill., to Joseph and Anna Klicpera, and lived the past 47 years in Contra Costa County. He served his country in the U.S. Navy as an electrician during World War II. Following the war he began his 62 year career as a tool and die machinist, retiring from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory after 24 years of service in 1985. He was also an accomplished general aviation pilot. He was a past Exalted Ruler of the Concord B.P.O. Elks Lodge and an active member of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville.

He was predeceased in 1990 by his loving wife of 45 years, Helen Klicpera; his children, Kathy Klicpera of Pleasant Hill and Michael Klicpera of San Diego; his sister Irene Kamba of La Grange Park, Ill.; his brothers, Johnny, Robert and Butchy Klicpera, all of the Chicago area; and three grandchildren. A Memorial Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Oct. 2 at St. Isidore's Church in Danville. He was buried with Helen at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette in a private ceremony.

Ronald Gilbert Brown

Danville resident Ron Brown died Oct. 7 in Danville at the age of 75.

He was born in Selah, Wash., on Oct. 14, 1932, and grew up on a farm. He attended University of Washington and Stanford University, where he received master's degrees in both business and engineering. He was a die-hard football fan of both alma maters. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the United States Coast Guard. He was a Silicon Valley executive and entrepreneur, spending most of his career with Sylvania. His passions included world travel, great wines and food, the opera and 49ers football, all shared with his true love Dee.

He is survived by his wife Dee; his son Dan (Tobi); daughters Theresa, Kathy (David) and Diana (Phil); step-children Rob (Karen) and Lisa (Michael); and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Jeff. A memorial service was held Oct. 10 at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel in Danville.

Madhavi Gandhi

Madhavi Gandhi, a resident of Danville, died Oct. 7 at the age of 48.

She was born Sept. 4, 1960, raised in Bombay and moved to California after her marriage. She treasured the time she spent raising her young family, but later went back to school to receive her Ph.D. from UC Davis, then taught computer science at California State University, East Bay.

She is survived by her husband Dhiren Gandhi; children Avinash and Ashvin Gandhi; sister Chandrahas Moholkar; parents Maruti and Vibhavari Moholka; and in-laws Krishnakumar and Padmavati Gandhi. A memorial service was held Oct. 11 at Wilson and Kratzer Mortuary. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1885 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill 94523.

Donald Miladinovich

Donald Miladinovich, a Danville resident, died Oct. 13 in Walnut Creek at the age of 76.

He was born in Oakland on Dec. 25, 1931, and lived in San Leandro until he moved to Danville 33 years ago. He received a B.A. in accounting from Armstrong College in 1952. He was a general contractor until 1972, when he embarked on various business ventures becoming a successful entrepreneur. He was active in the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, the San Leandro Masonic Lodge #113 F. & A.M., Oakland Scottish Rite, and Aahmes Shrine.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Edie Miladinovich; daughters Michel Gnutzman (Tom), Sophie Miladinovich, and Natalie Moss (Darin); and two grandchildren. A service was Oct. 19 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga, with a Masonic service Oct. 20 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Concord. Interment was at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. Memorial gifts may be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children-Northern California, 2425 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento 95817 or to Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St., Moraga 94556.

Calendar

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

Art

A Day of the Dead Celebration

Join Fourth Street Studio for its show, "Unexplored Territory: A Day of the Dead Celebration," running now through Nov. 1. A reception will be held 7-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, at 1717D Fourth St., Berkeley. This free event will feature the connection to mysticism through artistic expression, free tarot readings, live music and prizes for best dressed. Visit www.fourthstreetstudio.com or call (510) 527-0600.

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.

Show of Historic Places To commemorate the celebration of 150 years of Danville, more than 22 Pioneer Art Gallery artists have created artworks that depict historic landmarks around town. This exhibit will run until Nov. 16 at 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Hours are 3-7 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. E-mail adasartgallery@sbcglobal.net.

Classes

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.

Houseplants

Navlet's Garden Center will offer a free class on planting houseplants at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. This class is free. Call 837-9144.

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.

Exchange Club Luncheon Speaker

The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley's guest speaker for November will be Steve Moore of Pacific Rim Recycling, noon-1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 12, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. There will be a business networking presentation and ticket sales for Thursday's Spirit of Danville event. The cost is \$16 members; \$20 non-members. Call 275-2412.

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 Leshner 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.ccwindsymphony.org.

Singing Recital Students of the Sarah Sloan Vocal Studio of Dublin will be performing at Rossmoor Retirement Community in Walnut Creek as part of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Annual Recital, 3-4:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9. Admission is free. Visit www.sarahsloan.net.

Events

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.blue-starmoms.org or call 648-1549.

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.

Open Houses at the Flower Shop

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

Peace Corps at Danville Library

This program features returned Peace Corps volunteers sharing stories of life working in "Silk Road" countries, 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, Danville Library, 400 Front St. The volunteers spent two years on assignment and have a unique perspective on the culture and traditions in the countries they served. Call 837-4889.

Veterans Day Ceremony

Students, faculty, staff and parents will honor our veterans with a Veterans Day ceremony at St. Isidore School, 10:30-11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 10, 435 La Gonda Way, Danville, with guest speakers, musicians, and the SIS Boy Scouts. All veterans are welcome. Call 837-2977, ext. 117.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Best Of Momix

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

Exhibits

Early American Quilts "Untold Stories: Early American Quilts from the Collection of Susan Brooks" presents 35 quilts and other artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries, noon-5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday; and 6-8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, now through Nov. 23, Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

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.

Film

Jewish Book and Arts Festival

REFUSENIK is the first retrospective documentary film to chronicle the 30-year movement to free Soviet Jews as told through the eyes of activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain, many of whom survived punishment in the Soviet Gulag labor camps; 7:30-9:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3, at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Cost is \$12. Visit www.bethchaim.com or call 736-7146.

Fundraisers

Candy Cane Christmas Boutique

Macedonian Outreach will host the Candy Cane Boutique from 5-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7; and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo (across from Alamo Women's Club). Items will include hundreds of Christmas gift items, baked goods, gift baskets, drawings, jewelry, toys, quilts, china/crystal and a Silent Auction. A luncheon can be purchased for \$10. Proceeds will benefit the children in the Balkans. Call Vula at 837-7279 or Dee at 820-1432.

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 per-

formance, 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

Family Pancake Breakfast The San Ramon Senior Foundation is hosting a family pancake breakfast, 9-10:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. This fundraiser helps to support the senior center and enrich the lives of its members. Cost is \$4 adults/\$2 children. Call 973-3250.

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.

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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Friday 8:30 - 4:00pm
Lunch 12:00 to 1:30
T: (925) 736-7070
F: (925) 736-7075
4165 Blackhawk Plaza
Circle #100
Danville, CA 94506

Walk-In Clinic
Monday - Friday
8:00 - 7:00pm
Saturday & Sunday
10:00 - 4:00pm
T: (925) 552-1000
F: (925) 552-1004
2455 San Ramon
Valley Blvd.
San Ramon, CA 94583

Garden/Home Tours

AAUW Holiday Home Tour The Danville-Alamo AAUW Holiday Home Tour will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, previewing homes in Danville, Blackhawk and Alamo. The cost is \$30/ ticket if purchased before Dec. 5 by sending a check made out to "Danville-Alamo AAUW" and a self-addressed stamped envelope to AAUW Holiday Tour, P.O. Box 996, Alamo 94507. Tickets are also available at Leku Eder, 178 E. Prospect Ave., Danville. Visit www.aauw-da.org or call 837-0826.

Health

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

Holiday Shopping Fair 2008 Don't miss out on purchasing gifts for your friends and loved ones while supporting the Community Presbyterian Preschool, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 5-6, 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville. A variety of items will be available. Visit www.cpcdanville.org or call 855-1377.

Spirit of Danville Pre-Holiday Event Danville downtown and Livery merchants invite everyone for an evening of holiday cheer, from 5-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13. Tickets are \$5, which goes directly to the charity from which you purchase your ticket, good for a wristband to be pampered with holiday discounts and goodies that night. For information, visit www.discoverdanville.com. A free trolley will shuttle between downtown and the Livery.

Kids and Teens

Indoor Sky Diving There is no school Nov. 10 so join the Town of Danville for a new experience - indoor sky diving at I-Fly in Union City where participants will be trained to skydive in its vertical wind tunnel. From 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10. Spots are very limited. Cost is \$80. Leaves from Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. For information, call 314-3481.

Kids Circle and Teen Talk - When Mom or Dad Has Cancer The Wellness Community is offering a program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children to identify feelings and learn coping skills as well as support groups for teens and parents. Visit www.twcba.org or call 933-0107.

Pleasanton Civic Arts Launches SaturYAY with Michael Cooper Sat. 11/22/08: Pleasanton Civic Arts presents Michael Cooper, an internationally-acclaimed visual artist and mime who combines elaborate handcrafted masks, original stories of courage and wonder, outlandish still dancing and an energetic physical repertoire into a moving sculpture on stage, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10-\$18 adults/ \$6-\$14 children and are available at www.civictartstickets.org. For information call 931-3444.

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.

Toddler Time at the Danville Library Bring your toddlers (25 mos.-36 mos.) 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

2008 Election Outcomes-How They Affect Us The League of Women Voters Diablo Valley and St. Mary's College have assembled a panel of political journalists to analyze the election results and speculate on their impact nationally, statewide and locally. The public is invited to attend this free event, 7-9 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10, St. Mary's College, Soda Room, St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Call 283-2235.

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.

Coping with the Holidays cancer patients and their caregivers: Are you looking forward to the holidays with joyful anticipation or are you already feeling overwhelmed? In a safe environment, come explore your feelings, examine ways to set priorities and delegate responsibilities, and learn simple relaxation techniques, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Free for cancer patients and their caregivers. Visit www.twcba.org or call 933-0107.

Hollywood and Christian Values Catholics at Work presents Barbara Nicolosi, founder and executive director of Act One, to provide a view of what goes on in Hollywood and what Christians have to do to break into the industry, 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20 for members/\$25 non-members. Visit www.catholicsatwork.org or call 683-5263.

Offshore Oil Panel Join the Commonwealth Club for a panel discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of offshore oil drilling, 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette. The cost is \$15/members; \$30/non-members and \$7/students. Visit www.commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6700.

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.

Writing Historical Fiction At the next meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, Janis Cooke Newman, author of a novel about Mary Todd Lincoln, and Jordan Biro of the California Council for the Promotion of History will discuss how to research, write and market historical fiction; 11:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, Oasis Grille, 780 Main St.,

Pleasanton. Cost is \$21 for members, \$27 for non-members and includes lunch. For reservations, call 462-7495.

Literary Events

Effective Plotting Workshop Bestselling author Penny Warner will lead a workshop on Effective Plotting, for the Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club, noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasanton Hill. The cost is \$25 members; \$30 non-members and all are welcome. Reserve by Nov. 5. Call 376-3631.

First Wednesday Program Friends of Danville Library hosts local author Dorothy Hearst, 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the library, 400 Front St. She will speak on the life of a writer. Her novel, "Promise of the Wolves," is the first book in the trilogy, "The Wolf Chronicles." Event is free. 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. To register call (650)854-3980 or e-mail oscarf1@earthlink.net.

On Stage

'Romeo and Juliet' This 55-minute abridged version of "Romeo and Juliet" presented by the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival provides an excellent introduction to Shakespeare and drama that can be appreciated by the entire family, at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21, Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$15 adults/\$10 youth and seniors 65. Visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com or call 973-2787.

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

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.

Ridge Trail Service Day The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and REI are hosting a REI Ridge Trail Service Day, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, in all nine Bay Area counties. Call (415) 561-2595.

Spiritual

Men's Retreat Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy and Michael John Poirier will present "Authenticity: An Adventurous Vocation," at 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21, for dinner, through 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 23, for lunch, at the San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Ave., Danville. Cost is \$205 for private room or \$175 for double. Call 837-9141, ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Support Groups

Coping with the Holidays Hospice of the East Bay offers an adult grief class, Coping with the Holidays, 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For information and to register call 887-5678.

Stroke Support Group The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its monthly meeting, 7-9 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10, John Muir Medical Center-Concord Campus, 2540 East Ave., Concord. Maria Tataru will be speaking on "Transforming Loss and Grief." Call 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

DANVILLE WEEKLY TRI-VALLEY HERALD SAN RAMON VALLEY TIMES

ENDORSE

Arnerich, Andersen & Doyle
for Danville Town Council

KEEP DANVILLE INCUMBENTS

"They share a vision for the town, including fiscal responsibility, protection of open space and improving transportation."

Danville Weekly, Perspective
October 24, 2008

KEEP COUNCIL IN DANVILLE

"...we recommend votes for incumbents Newell Arnerich, Candace Andersen and Mike Doyle... Under their leadership, the town has maintained sound fiscal footing."

San Ramon Valley Times,
Editorial
October 22, 2008

Newell Arnerich
Danville Vice Mayor, Architect
1995 - present;
Mayor 1999 & 2004
Arnerich.org
abc7news.com:
NextGenPolitics



Candace Andersen
Danville Mayor, Attorney
2003 - present;
Mayor 2008
CandaceForCouncil.com
abc7news.com:
NextGenPolitics



Mike Doyle
Danville Council Member
1991 - present; Mayor
1997, 2001 & 2005
abc7news.com:
NextGenPolitics



Responsible Experienced Leadership

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



This miniature of the gingerbread Danville Hotel Restaurant and Saloon sells for \$30.

Miniatures tell the tale

Museum shop selling little replicas of historic buildings

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Danville's historic charm is being captured in miniature - and the little buildings, plus the oak tree, are for sale in the gift shop at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

Artist Gary Winter replicated Danville historic buildings in miniature years ago and sold them at a shop in town.

"They were at Father Nature's Shed for a couple of years," he recalled. "They always did well with them."

So far he has created miniatures of the train depot, which houses the museum; the former Danville Hotel Restaurant and Saloon; the Danville Oak Tree; the old Tassajara School House; and the San Ramon General Store.

"The Veterans Hall is the next one coming out," he said. "I'm planning to do the Geldermann home in San Ramon, the Glass house, the Vecki house and the feed and grain in Alamo."

For the last 10 years or so, Winter has focused on Pleasanton, where he lives, creating diminutive versions of its historic buildings and Victorian houses. He's done about 70 different miniatures, including buildings in Danville, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Francisco and Mission Ranch in Carmel, which is owned by Clint Eastwood.

Winter began experimenting with miniatures in the mid-1990s, creating buildings with great attention to detail. One couple commissioned him to create a three-dimensional miniature of their house to celebrate the final payment on their mortgage. Such replicas are labor-intensive and start at \$400.

"I was having a ball being creative but I was also trying to figure out how to make it affordable to everybody," Winter said. "I worked on it for like a year, making these little buildings and fiddling around. Finally it dawned on



Artist Gary Winter has created miniatures of Danville historic buildings, which are for sale at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley gift shop.

me: What if I just made the front of the building?"

He began to experiment with large drawings of building fronts, putting in a lot of detail and shadowing them for a three-dimensional look, then reducing the drawings and adhering them to wood. He uses an electric saw to cut out

the shape.

"The drawing takes the time, about 20 to 30 hours," he said. "I love detail."

"I try to do them all straight on," he added. "With the Veterans Hall, I will cut the trees back."

Winter stopped into the Museum of the San Ramon Valley during the

Antiques and Art Faire in late August and happened to meet Eloise McTigue, chairwoman of the museum's store committee. They agreed the miniature historic buildings might be a good addition to the museum store.

"I did paintings for Joel Geldermann and donated the paintings to the museum," said Winter. "His family owned a good portion of the western ridge. I did three paintings and lined them all up and it's the whole ridge."

The paintings are on display at the museum and show the ridge before any houses were built on it.

The miniatures at the museum sell for \$30; the oak tree is \$27; and the smaller Tassajara School House is \$23.

McTigue said museum patrons buy books and other items at the shop in the old depot.

"Our best selling items are children's toys that cost less than \$10," she said. "Less than \$5 is even better."

The bonnets are always popular, especially when third-graders dress in 1890s garb for their visit to the old Tassajara School House.

"In summer when we have our train exhibits, we sell the train things," said McTigue.

Coincidentally the Pioneer Art Gallery's current exhibit features "150 Years of Historic Buildings in Danville."

"Over 20 artists have gone around town and painted over 20 of the historic buildings in town," said artist Bill Carmel, director of the Alamo Danville Artists' Society gallery.

The art exhibit runs through Nov. 16 at the gallery, 522 Hartz Ave.

"It's weird how they came together," said Winter.

His miniatures will remain as a permanent part of the inventory at the museum, at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Prospect in Danville. ■



BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN

About canine bloat

Canine bloat, or gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV), is the No. 1 cause of death for several large and giant breeds. This condition occurs when the stomach becomes twisted, and quickly becomes life-threatening as gas builds up but cannot escape. As the stomach fills with gas, it compresses nearby blood vessels, preventing normal blood flow. As a result, the stomach itself may die from inadequate blood flow. Toxins that accumulate in the dying tissues can spread through the body causing havoc in other organ systems.

Affected dogs drool because they cannot swallow. Also, they cannot belch or vomit which would help relieve the mounting pressure from the stomach gases. The pressure causes the abdomen to become distended. When tapped, the abdomen can sound like a drum.

RISK FACTORS

The breed with the highest average lifetime likelihood of a bloat episode is the Great Dane, at 42.4 percent. Other breeds at higher-than average risk are the Bloodhound, Irish Wolfhound, Irish Setter, Akita, Standard Poodle, German shepherd and boxer. Other deep-chested breeds and deep-chested mixed-breed dogs are also at higher risk.

In a study of more than 1,900 dogs representing 11 different breeds at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, several risk factors were identified.

The dogs with the greatest risk of developing bloat have chests that are deep and narrow. Lean dogs were found to be at higher risk than overweight dogs, possibly because a lean dog has much more room in the abdomen for the stomach to move around than a fat dog. This does not mean, of course, that overweight dogs are generally healthier than lean dogs.

Risk is also higher for older dogs. For large breeds, the risk of developing bloat goes up 20 percent each year after the age of 5. For giant breeds, it goes up 20 percent each year after the age of 3. First degree relatives (i.e., parents, littermates, or offspring) of dogs that have had bloat have a 63 percent greater risk of developing bloat themselves. Dogs that eat quickly have a 15 percent higher risk of developing bloat. One traditional preventative has been to raise the height of food and water bowls, but this was found to actually increase risk by 110 percent.

The study also found that fearful, nervous or aggressive dogs had a much higher incidence of bloat than did dogs perceived by their owners as having happy temperaments. Stress can also be a precipitating factor, and many dogs bloat after recent kenneling or a long car ride.

Several diet-related factors were associated with a higher incidence of bloat. These include feeding only dry food or feeding a single large daily meal. Mixing table food or canned food

into dry food also decreased the risk of bloat. During the past 30 years there has been a 1,500 percent increase in the incidence of bloat, and this has coincided with the increased feeding of dry dog foods.

As for feeding one large meal a day, this can weigh down the stomach and stretch the hepatogastric ligament, which helps maintain the stomach's normal position in the abdomen. Dogs that have bloated were found to have a much longer hepatogastric ligament; it is thought that this is due to chronic stretching. This could also explain why bloat risk increases with age.

Several popular theories regarding bloat were not substantiated during the study. There was no correlation of bloat risk to exercise before or after eating, as most dogs bloated in the middle of the night with an empty, gas-filled stomach. There was also no correlation to vaccinations, to the brand of dog food consumed, or to the timing or volume of water intake before or after eating.

TREATMENT

Approximately 30 percent of dogs that develop bloat die or have to be euthanized. This can be due to shock, to cardiac arrhythmias (fatal irregular heart beats), or to rupture or death of the stomach wall.

Emergency treatment of bloat begins with alleviating the gas pressure by passing a rubber tube down the mouth into the stomach. If the tube cannot be passed due to the twisted position of the stomach, the insertion of a hypodermic needle through the side of the abdomen can help relieve the pressure. If a dog survives decompression but the stomach remains twisted, emergency surgery is required to straighten it. Some dogs may also require removal of a damaged spleen which is attached to the stomach, or a portion of the stomach wall.

The most important aspect of bloat surgery is a "gastropexy." This procedure attaches the stomach wall to the body wall and prevents it from twisting in the future. For breeds that are at high risk we recommend having a preventative gastropexy performed, which is usually performed at the time of neutering or spaying, but can be done at any time using laparoscopy, which requires only two small incisions on the side of the abdomen.

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



BY MARIA SHEN

Talking 'teen' and technology

"Sketchy?" my friend Aimee's dad recently asked. "What is that supposed to mean—sketchy?"

"You know ... when something's really janky," Aimee explained. From the ever-growing look of confusion on her dad's face, I could tell this conversation was going nowhere.

I witnessed this conversation a few days ago. There was such a hopeless generation gap that I decided that it's time to give the world (or at least Danville) a brief Adolescent 101 on three basic topics: communication, fashion and technology.

Communication

"Awkward" is a teen epidemic. The Facebook group "Awkward Moments Define My Life" boasts 222,679 members and is growing. I'm not sure when it started catching on. In the infancy of its use, I refused to participate in the excessive vocalization of the word "awkward," but it's impossible not to adopt the catchphrase when you hear it from morning 'til night. So what is awkward?

If you're listing things in your head, then you're on the wrong track. The correct thinking would be this: What isn't awkward?

Anything that makes you emotionally uncomfortable is awkward. Therefore, everything is awkward. Observe the following conversations for common usage and application of this word:

Teen A: I had a hardboiled egg this morning.

Teen B: Oh, that's so awkward!

Teen A: Yeah, it was really white and awkward-looking.

Teen A: My dog was chewing my underwear.

Teen B: Awwwwkward!

When something makes you uncomfortable, often saying "awkward" is not enough. Sometimes, it's appropriate to use a synonymous hand gesture in lieu of the word. If you're unfamiliar with the Awkward Turtle, then ask your nearest teenager.

The next commonly used word is "sketchy." This means that some person, place, thing or abstract idea is questionable. It's not as often used as "awkward" but, then again, nothing is. Words with similar meanings include "sketch" and "janky," the latter of which has a connotation of being broken-down. Here is how they might appear in a conversation near you:

Teen A: I left my lunch in my backpack for a week.

Teen B: Your backpack must smell really sketchy.

Teen A: There's a man standing outside my house and watching my window.

Teen B: It's kinda sketch that he's standing out there. Perhaps you should call the police.

No matter your age, it's always better to speak like a normal person might. However, next time you hear these words being used, you can be sure to understand their full, colorful meanings.

Fashion

This one's simple. This is the rule with teen fashion these days: Wear anything.

At concerts, I've seen girls dressed in nothing but duct tape. (I don't suggest this, however. Imagine undressing—it would be like ripping off a Band-Aid, times 1,000. Plus, it doesn't look very nice.)

Technology

I love my gadgets. My mom, who doesn't know much about the computer past sending an email, can't understand why I'm always at the computer. More and more people from my age group aren't even watching TV anymore. The Internet has everything—news, prime time shows, fashion, food, music and gossip. And for people like me, who love to write, the computer is preferable to a pen and pad. I can instantly share whatever I write to however many people I wish and receive instant feedback.

Perhaps the Internet has made us more impersonal. We love to instant message each other instead of giving a call, e-mailing instead of sending a letter (what is this postage stamp of which you speak?), and Skyping instead of meeting face to face. Even when we're away from our computers and using our phones, text messaging seems more popular than calling.

I'm old-school in the sense that I still like calling people on the telephone. I think it's faster and more efficient—can you blame me for not wanting to send 10 text messages back and forth just to arrange one meeting? But maybe that's just because I'm terribly slow at texting compared to some of my friends. I've seen thumbs zoom across a keypad faster than the eye can catch. The phone flips open. A blurred string of clicks. The phone flips shut. The whole thing happens so fast you can barely catch it.

Is this strange? Yes, it kind of is. I'm from this generation, but I'm still enthralled by the speed at which people can text and type.

As I read back over this, I realize I've sketched an image of a teen wearing duct tape and texting like mad. Awkward!

Maria Shen, reporting on Generation Y, is a senior at Monte Vista High School. E-mail her at youngbohemians@gmail.com.

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OF NOTE



Queen of Job's Daughters

Allison Hom, a 2007 graduate of San Ramon High School, was selected Honored Queen of the Job's Daughters Grand Bethel, at a state-wide convention held in Visalia. As one of her first official duties, she spoke at the Grand Lodge of California Freemasonry prior to the 159th Installation of Grand Lodge Officers on Sept. 28 at San Francisco's Masonic Auditorium.

Hom will serve a one-year term, traveling throughout the state and nation promoting Job's Daughters and their philanthropic ventures, which include Kamp for Kids, Job's Daughters Scholarships, and HIKE.

Hom was the first recipient of the Job's Daughters Danielle Joy Williams Scholarship. She became a member of Bethel No. 247 at age 13 and now, at 20, she is a sophomore at San Jose State College studying Industrial Design.

\$191,000 for Habitat for Humanity

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the residential real estate services company, has raised more than \$191,000 for Habitat for Humanity, the nonprofit organization that helps low-income families build their own homes. The donation was the result of an eight-week community-wide drawing held throughout the 63 Northern California offices and was its 10th annual fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity.

"Once again, our agents, managers and staff worked tirelessly to make this year's fundraiser a big success," said Joe Brown, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "Thousands of our folks donated their time, money and resources to raise funds so that less-fortunate families in our community have the opportunity to enjoy the American dream of home ownership."

More than 4,000 sales associates, managers and staff from Lake Tahoe to the Monterey Peninsula purchased tickets on behalf of their clients, family, friends and themselves, which were in turn entered into a drawing for a number of prizes. Winners walked away with

a \$5,000 cash prize donated by Princeton Capital, a three-night Mexico getaway, a one night stay and golf for four at Carmel Valley Ranch, a \$500 case of wine from Parsonage Village Vineyard, and myriad other prizes donated by generous companies and individuals throughout Northern California and beyond.

Coldwell Banker is the only national real estate firm to embrace Habitat for Humanity as its official corporate charity. Its team also has participated in the construction of 65 Habitat for Humanity homes with more than volunteer 40,000 hours.



Patriotic Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts from Den 2, Pack 815, opened the Danville Town Council meeting Oct. 7 with a flag ceremony, including (l-r) Calvin Atkins, Mitchell Rogers, Michael O'Hara, Jack Duffek, Jack Wilkerson, Mitchell Kanazawa, Joseph Colton and Owen Becker.

Shower for royalty

Contenders in the 2008 California Junior Teen Queen get together Oct. 4 at the Danville Home of Heidi Cheung with their mothers to practice their personal introductions, interviews, speech and talents in order to prepare for the nationals competition in Florida this Thanksgiving. The contestants are Princess Queen Alyssa-Marie Muna (mom Vanessa Muna); Sweetheart Queen Jacqueline Trafton (mom Jackie Trafton); Preteen Hostess Annika Hudak (mom Mona Hudak); Preteen Queen Raven Delk (mom Teikeshia Delk); and Junior Teen Queen Heidi Cheung (mom Mary Mok).



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Students a century ago

In 1915, the high school student body poses in front of San Ramon Valley Union High School on Front Street. Pictured are (front, l-r) Maude Donahue, Christine Sorrensen, Christine Rutherford, Florence Pynn, Georgia Burris, Sophie Sorrensen; (middle) Charles Stelling, Travis Boone, Alton Wilcox, Ruth Crozier, Christine Andreasen, Florence Burris, Ila Boucher, Undine Horton, Geneva Billings, Alberta Wiedemann, Vivian Coats, Bernice Donahue, Catherine Stelling, Arthur Peters; (back) Phillip Harris, Leo (Pete) Lynch, Durward Van Gordon, Lloyd Williams, Raymond Andreasen, Milton Smith, David Boucher, Braddock Petersen, Claude Andreasen, Lloyd Abrott, Reuben Olsson, Roy Bell and Oliver Davis.

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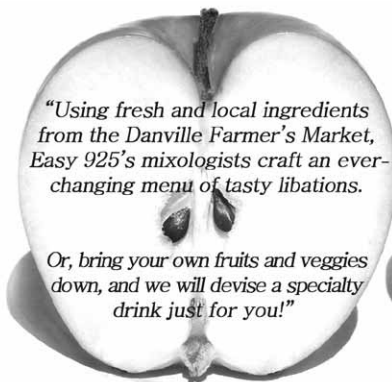
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Parent photographers

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Sharks undefeated

The Mustang Sharks U-16 Boys Division 3 coached by Ziad Tielmat and Steven Hoffman are undefeated with four strong wins early in the season of league play. The Sharks outscored the Walnut Creek Diablos, 8-1, on Sept. 6 at the Mustang Soccer Complex fields; defeated the Mustang Scorpions, 7-2, on Sept. 15 under the hometown lights; bested the Pleasanton Ballistic Blacks on the Blacks' home turf with a score of 5-2; and wrapped up the weekend with another win against neighboring San Ramon Rampage 9-1, at home. Team members are (front, l-r) Rene Patino, Angel Ordaz, Derek Morefield, Casey Sbrana, Austin Anderson, Michael Bluestein, Josh Smiley; (back) Coach Steve Hoffman, Zuheir Tielmat, Spencer Kitchin, Jordon Giusti, Mikhail Torru, Spencer Weberski, Rhys Tong-Jones, Jacob Clark, Kevin Trisko, Stephen Armstrong and Coach Ziad Tielmat



Vipers just a goal short

The 12U Division 3 Mustang Vipers came up a goal short in their second championship match in as many tournaments. The Vipers allowed only four goals in four games during the highly competitive Devil Mountain Tournament held Aug. 30-31. Team members are (back, l-r) Treavor Grauman, Eric Dobberpuhl, Coach Jim Motter, Mitch O'Brien, Zack Chase, Blake Engelhart, Coach Kelly Kunde, Daniel Reget, RJ Motter, Coach Jim Reget, Brandon Wise, and Gregory Gibbert; (front) Riley Struck, John Quinn, Drew Kunde, Blake Ogburn, Collin Thompson, Jason Tahoe Hare and Nick Bear.

MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAPUP

by Lizzy Hearn

Football

Monte Vista varsity football dominated the Livermore High School Cowboys, beating them 51-16, at home Friday, Oct. 24. Scoring 41 points in the first half alone, junior quarterback Brett Nottingham helped lead his team to victory by completing 13 of 16 passes.

Other top offensive players included Greg Johnson, who scored two touchdowns, and Danny

Wissenger. Top defensive players included David Wilkerson, Sam Sherwood and Craig Lanza.

Monte Vista is looking forward to facing De La Salle today, Oct. 31, De La Salle High School in Concord.

Water Polo

Last week in Mustang water polo, the varsity boys beat Livermore High, 13-8, and Sir Francis Drake High, 12 to 7.

Varsity women beat Livermore as well, with a score of 29-2. Team also beat Carondelet High last

Thursday, 22-10.

Top players of the week included Mike Millstein and Kelly Mendoza.

Women's Tennis

The Mustang women's varsity tennis team took on California High School at home Oct. 28. They came out with the win, 7-2.

They also played Livermore High School, sweeping them with a 9-0 victory. Elana Cadet, Jacqueline Murray and Shiyulli Suriyakumar were some of the top players in these matches.

PREP SCHEDULE

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.)

Saturday, Nov. 1

Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at De La Salle,

Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at Carondelet, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Women's Tennis

MVHS at SRVHS, 4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

SRVHS at Carondelet (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

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

Thursday, Nov. 6

Football

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

Women's Volleyball

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

SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAPUP

by Kaity Ferretti

Men's Water Polo

This past week's match against Cal High was no contest for the No. 1 seeded East Bay Athletic League team, San Ramon Valley. The Wolves crushed the Grizzlies, 25-4, on Tuesday, Oct. 21. San Ramon's strategy going into the match was to shut down Cal's only threatening player causing the offense to falter. Their plan worked, as the Wolves kept the lead the entire time by up to 8 goals.

Goalie Justin Gribble, easily one of the best in North Coast Section, nearly shut out the Grizzlies. One of SRVHS's strongest players, Patrick Weiss, scored three goals, while Jason Roudnev scored five goals. Roudnev was recently presented

the "Play of the Week" award as well as the "Hammer Award" for both his performances in the Monte Vista game and Cal High game.

As the water polo season is coming to a close, San Ramon's entire focus is on the upcoming De La Salle game. The Wolves play the Spartans tomorrow, Nov. 1, a game they are avidly training for. De La Salle, second in EBAL, lost to SRVHS during their first match, 8-9. The game was extremely close and the Wolves are anticipating their second game to be the same. NCS post season is coming up in two weeks and the Wolves, among the top four in NCS, are training hard to become the champions.

"It is going to come down to who wants it more and who works hard enough," said Roudnev about winning NCS.

Women's Volleyball

San Ramon varsity women's volleyball swept Amador Valley High in just three games on Tuesday, Oct. 21, the second time the Wolves beat them this season. The Wolves were tied for first in EBAL with the Dons going into the match. San Ramon, now first in league, gained their lead in the beginning and held it until the end. Sammi Buono scored 10 service points in the second game, enhancing the Wolves lead. Leah Foltz played excellent defense by blocking Amador's attempts to score. Annie Begin, who recently suffered from a shoulder injury that rendered her right hand unusable, played her entire game left-handed.

Although Amador fought hard, San Ramon offensively and defen-

sively outplayed them.

"Coming out to this game, we were determined to win and prove that we deserve to be No. 1 in league," said Brianna Vandersloot.

As the Wolves come close to the end of their season, they face games against Granada, Cal, Monte Vista and Foothill. San Ramon has changed its line-up, a strategy that has been working well.

Football

San Ramon Valley's perfect varsity football team record came to an abrupt halt on Friday, Oct. 25, when they lost to the Cal High Grizzlies, 24-21. San Ramon fought hard but unfortunately fell into the Grizzlies' trap. Cal entered the game with a strategy to keep San Ramon's offense off

the field for as long as possible. Their plan worked as the Wolves O-Line was restricted to the sidelines for the first nine minutes of the game during Cal's first drive.

After Cal's first touchdown, San Ramon's offense stepped their game up. The Wolves went for a 70-yard drive, resulting in a 14-yard pass from Joe Southwick to Bryce Peterson for a touchdown. Defensive linebacker Garrison Goodman intercepted a pass from Cal, gaining possession for the Wolves. As the game progressed, Cal and SRVHS traded touchdowns up until Southwick connected with Chris Bradley for an 11-yard touchdown, making the score 24-21 with 3:46 left in the fourth quarter. The Wolves continued to fight hard until the very end, but unluckily came up short against the Grizzlies.

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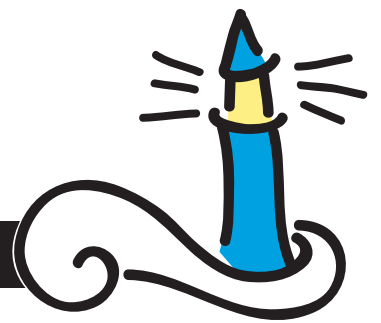
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Bad or NO Credit - No Problem
Smallest weekly payments avail. Call NOW - Call 1-800-816-2232 (AAN CAN)

245 Miscellaneous
Books
Order for Christmas. New Book. Montana Willbillys "the DRY YEARS", "the GREAT DEPRESSION". Stories of our Young Lives and Christmas on the Promised-Land of the West. WA/CA Cks-OK. \$17.95 to Centerra 12819 SE 38th Bellevue, WA 98006. www.Willbillys-Dry-Years.com (Cal-SCAN)

GET A NEW COMPUTER
Brand Name laptops & desktops
Bad or NO Credit - No Problem
Smallest weekly payments available. It's yours NOW - Call 800-803-8819 (AAN CAN)

240 Furnishings/Household items
3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10
Brass & Glass Hall Light - \$30.00
Brass & Glass Hall Light - \$30.00



Furnishings/Household
Futon, queen-oak frame, blue denim cover, good condition, 88x42x38 \$500.00 OBO 925-462-6720

TUPPERWARE
Tupperware sale! Call 510-581-3405 for a Holiday catalog!

THE TRI-VALLEY'S FREE CLASSIFIED WEBSITE TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO WWW.FOGSTER.COM

Sawmills From Only \$2,990
Convert your Logs to Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodSawMills.com/300N-FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363 - x300-N. (Cal-SCAN)



2004 John Deere 5520 DIESEL \$5500, pictures/contact johna291@gmail.com, +Loader +digger +blade +Bale Spear 747hrs 4x4 AC CD 89HP, 267-5191299

Custom Scrapbooks and Pages
Dog Igloo - Free Igloo
Jazzy Power Chair XL - \$1,700
Non-stick stove top grill - \$20
RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25.00
The training potty - \$8
Zebra FINCH - \$10.95



330 Child Care Offered

Danville Drop-In Care
Loving & Nurturing Child Care

345 Tutoring/Lessons

College Admissions Advising
Expert guidance & help with apps 925-998-9408, eva@PrepPoint.com
FRENCH, SPANISH TUTORING

High School Math Tutor
High school math tutoring, also SAT I, ACT, Subject Matter Math, history exams. One-on-one only. Former teacher, California credential. 925-462-3807.

Math & Chemistry Tutoring
Retired Scientist now enjoying TUTORING STUDENTS of all ages in math, algebra, geometry, trig, pre-calc, science & chemistry
CALL DOUG @ 925-858-5842

Math Tutor
Get math help from an expert: algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics and more. Tutor all levels: elementary, middle, high school and college
First hour is free! Reasonable rates (\$40-50)
Call now: 925-846-1250 or e-mail at mwinter@uicalumni.org
ONLINE ALGEBRA TUTOR



500 Help Wanted

Part time Data Entry
ICS Electronics, in Pleasanton, wants a part time person to do data entry and other clerical work. Must have some computer and accounting experience. Flexible hours, work only a couple days a week - ideal for stay at home mom. Email kathy@icsselect.com or fax resume to (925)416 0105.

550 Business Opportunities

A #1 All Cash Business
Red Bull* Coke* Pepsi* Frito Lay. Factory Direct. \$10,995 Invest. 1-866-490-0999. (Cal-SCAN)

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

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

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

560 Employment Information

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

\$600 WEEKLY POTENTIAL\$\$\$
Helping the Government PT. No Experience, No Selling.
Call: 1-888-213-5225 Ad Code L-5. VOID in Maryland and South Dakota. (AAN CAN)

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

Driver
Don't Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 2 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

Driver - \$5K Sign On
Bonus for Experienced Teams: Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os and CDL-A Grads welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

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

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

Drivers - Act Now!
Sign-On Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly. Excellent Benefits. Need CDL-A and 3 months recent OTR. 1-877-258-8782. (Cal-SCAN)

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

Exchange Coordinators Wanted
EF Foundation seeks energetic and motivated representatives to help find homes for int'l exchange students. Commission / travel benefits. Must be 25+. 877-216-1293. (Cal-SCAN)

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

Job Going Nowhere?
Interested in Fashion, Sports, Music? Start exciting sales career. Get paid while training. Earn \$400-\$700 weekly! Travel the country. Call 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING!
Average pay \$20/hr or \$57k/yr incl. Federal Benefits and OT.
Placed by adSource, not affiliated w/ USPS who hires. 1-866-616-7019. (AAN CAN)

Truck Drivers
CDL training. Up to \$20,000 bonus. Accelerate your career as a soldier. Drive out terrorism by keeping the Army National Guard supplied. 1-800-GO-GUARD.com/truck (Cal-SCAN)

Truck Drivers
Now Hiring Beginners. No CDL Needed. Great Pay and Benefits. Get your CDL with us. 1-866-780-1191. (Cal-SCAN)



601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

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

624 Financial

Business Credit Lines
\$50,000-\$250,000 available. Unsecured 50k+ Guaranteed with 720+ FICO, Stated Income, Perfect for Startups, 60Sec Pre-Approval. Business Credit Consultants. www.SeedCapital.com 1-866-988-SEED(7333). (Cal-SCAN)

636 Insurance

Life Insurance Services
Has Life Insurance been on your "To Do" list? Call today and get it "Done!" Tracy Tamura, Life Insurance Agent CA #020349
925-639-8889 tracy@tamurainsurance.com www.tamurainsurance.com

645 Office/Home Business Services

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

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



703 Architecture/Design

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

715 Cleaning Services

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

fogster.com



801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

Danville, Studio
Studio apt for rent in quiet Danville neighborhood. Complete with washer/dryer and separate entrance. All utilities incl, except phone. Great for college student or single working person. Please call: 925-824-3133.

Downtown Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1199
Downtown Pleasanton, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1535

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA
new carpets/windows/bath/no pets 1500.00
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

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

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$525.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Over 275 Foreclosed Home
Northern CA selling by auction November 12 -16 valued from \$35k to \$500k. Get all the details at www.HudsonAndMarshall.com or call 1-800-441-9401. (Cal-SCAN)

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2 BA - \$759000

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

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

Colorado Acreage
\$35,000! With trout fishing stream on property. Very private, gated ranch. Adjoins government lands in mountain canyon. Low down. Low monthly. Owner 1-806-376-8690. (Cal-SCAN)

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Happy Howl-o-ween

Meet Sammy, a 4-1/2 pound Chihuahua who, like most Chihuahuas, trembles like a leaf when you first meet him. You would think he saw a ghost! Sammy is a fragile, sweet, 5-year-old neutered male who needs an adult who will provide him with a safe, indoor home and who is willing to house train him to prevent nighttime accidents. Sammy has been on a soft food diet that left him with a lot of tartar on his teeth. He has goblin breath (that's dragon breath any other time of year) and Sammy needs dental care and a dry diet to improve his dental health. Sammy likes everyone, even cats. At 4-1/2 pounds, Sammy better be nice to a cat! For more information about this affectionate little dog, visit 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. Remember, chocolate is toxic to dogs and cats so keep that Halloween candy away from your pets!

Danville WEEKLY

Is Business Down? Need new customers?

Our loyal readers want to know about your business.

For Market Place Ads Contact Art
(925) 600-0840 x112
agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com

Colorado Bank 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 x4759. (Cal-SCAN)

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

Montana Land Bargains
(A Safe Haven) 20 Acres w/ Road and Utilities- \$29,900. 40 Acres w/ New Cabin- \$89,900. 160 Acres at \$99,900. Financing available. Fully guaranteed. 1-888-361-3006 www.WesternSkiesLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

Nevada: Lakefront Opportunity
Nevada's 3rd Largest Lake. Approx. 2 hrs. South of Carson City. Lake Front - \$89,900. Lake View - \$29,900. 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 Ranch Dispersal
New to market! 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo

Total sales reported: 5
 Lowest sale reported: \$885,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,948,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,313,400

Danville

Total sales reported: 5
 Lowest sale reported: \$501,500
 Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,229,600

Diablo

Total sales reported: 1
 Lowest sale reported: \$2,400,000
 Highest sale reported: \$2,400,000
 Average sales reported: \$2,400,000

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 20
 Lowest sale reported: \$154,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,075,000
 Average sales reported: \$541,725

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

920 Danville Blvd. **\$1,098,000**
 Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 997-3966
1490 Laurenita Wy. **\$889,500**
 Sun 1:30-4:30
 Lou Plummer-Alain Pinel 577-1944

5 Bedrooms

142 Erselia Trail **\$2,688,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30
 Lou Plummer-Alain Pinel 577-1944

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms

106 Kingswood Cir. **\$699,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 577-4004

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms

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

4 Bedrooms

2561 Finley Rd. **\$3,250,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 260-8883

5 Bedrooms

308 Sunset Dr. **\$1,098,888**
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883
340 Durham Ct. **\$1,175,000**
 Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 997-3966
10 Discovery Ct. **\$1,388,000**
 Sun 1-4 Eileen Moroney-Keller Williams 397-4283

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms

11120 Bay Laurel St. **\$1,342,500**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Keller Williams 260-8883
7157 Hansen Dr. **\$649,000**
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 570-0717

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

3637 Carrigan Cmn. **\$291,000**
 Sun 2-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2186
3064 Arbor Ave. **\$315,000**
 Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2169
2155 Shetland Rd. **\$399,950**
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2177
1054 Via Madrid **\$399,999**
 Sun 1-4 Suzanne Dominguez-Keller Williams 596-1918
4290 Cornell Wy. **\$505,000**
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2177

4 Bedrooms

2801 Vine Ct. **\$899,999**
 Sat 2-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2169

5 Bedrooms

1528 Helsinki **\$619,000**
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2177

6 Bedrooms

635 Triviso Cir. **\$948,000**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 899-6011

PLEASANTON

2 Bedrooms

4341 Krause St. **\$525,000**
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8800

3 Bedrooms

3516 Whitehall Ct. **\$729,000**
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 577-0525

4 Bedrooms

3907 Arrowwood Ct. **\$1,399,999**
 Sun 1-4 Angela Ochs, Hometown GMAC 510-612-0719

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

6337 Shorewood Ct. **\$624,979**
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Pories 963-8871

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

5211 Caparelli Ct. **\$739,000**
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 337-2989

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

3294 Sylvaner Ct. **\$850,000**
 Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 518-4492

5114 Mount Tam Cir. **\$949,000**
 Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

5 Bedrooms

1368 Royal Creek Ct. **\$1,288,888**
 Sun 1-4 Brigitte Hunttemann-Keller Williams 260-2508

4148 Grant Ct. **\$1,299,500**
 Sun 1-4 Lou Plummer-Alain Pinel 577-1944

4353 W Ruby Hill Dr. **\$1,650,000**
 Sun 1-4 Karen T-Coldwell Banker 847-2300

4931 Monaco Dr. **\$999,900**
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Gene & Cindy Williams-Keller Williams 243-0900

SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms

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

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

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2008

Alamo

345 Golden Grass Drive Davidon Homes to J. Hsieh for \$1,948,000
33 Leilani Lane Cederwall Trust to Christiansen Trust for \$885,000
375 Miranda Lane Sonnenberg Trust to P. & F. Adcock for \$1,275,000
51 Sara Lane Olin Trust to A. & L. Schmitt for \$1,010,000
83 Stephanie Lane Macaluso Trust to Mamasita Limited for \$1,449,000

Danville

147 Briar Place Saporito Trust to D. & T. Bowlby for \$980,000
275 Channi Loop Shapell Industries to S. Lao for \$501,500
2715 Deer Meadow Drive Vaculn Trust to R. & K. Preece for \$1,800,000
553 El Pintado Road #B Panella Trust to K. & M. Evans for \$1,850,000
1392 Monterosso Street Lennar Homes to P. & M. Napier for \$1,016,500

Diablo

118 Verda Del Ciervo Kerekes Trust to Walker Trust for \$2,400,000

Walnut Creek

1315 Alma Avenue #154 Birnbaum Trust to D. Birnbach for \$486,000
1825 Almond Avenue T. & S. Keane to J. Keane for \$840,000

622 Cedar Glen Court J. Dudum to G. Wolley for \$1,075,000
2025 Countrywood Court Sherman Trust to M. Salmani for \$410,000
208 Hamlin Loop R. & O. Enriquez to Yamasaki Trust for \$539,000
32 Iron Horse Lane Suntrust Bank to J. Clayden for \$440,000
1491 Marchbanks Drive #2 Gilbert Trust to B. Dawson for \$233,000
225 Masters Court #1 C. & J. Pantig to L. Garabedian for \$280,000
430 North Civic Drive #101 Lukashovsky Trust to K. & E. Tanihara for \$200,000
490 North Civic Drive #318 Deutsche Bank to H. Kargaran for \$154,000
1570 Siskiyou Drive M. & C. Hilgeman to S. Kline for \$590,000
2649 Sundance Court Chetcuti & Associates to D. & M. Gedeon for \$1,057,500
21 Supreme Court Demeter Trust to M. Roberts for \$725,000
824 Tampico Zimmerman Trust to L. Rubin for \$516,000
4139 Terra Granada Drive #1B Martini Trust to B. Benko for \$559,000
1860 Tice Creek Drive #1314 Heavey Trust to Kerr Trust for \$345,000
404 Via Royal C. Marr to C. Ward for \$425,000
3319 Whitehaven Drive Staraci Trust to M. Yogya for \$865,000
3606 Winchester Place J. & J. Sullivan to H. & L. Boukis for \$780,000
1919 Ygnacio Valley Road #87 Tichy Trust to T. White for \$315,000

Short Sale and Foreclosure Workshop

"What is the difference between a Short Sale and a Foreclosure in regards to my credit?"

"How can I successfully Short Sell my home in a timely manner to avoid Foreclosure?"

"What may be the Tax repercussions in regards to a Short Sale?"

"What steps do I need to take to Short Sell my home?"

Private Consultations Available Upon Request

**Tuesday
 November 11
 7-8:30pm
 306 Hartz Ave.
 Danville**

Veronica Villano

925.925.0928

veronicavillano@hotmail.com

Financial Mechanics Group

Short Sale and Loan Modification Specialists

www.financialmechanicsgroup.com

People & Properties

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FMG

1.866.608.4364



SAN RAMON REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER



Where our families begin.

Some of our physicians and staff with their infants to 18-year-olds, all born at San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

Each day the Family Birthing Center at San Ramon Regional Medical Center brings the joys of new life – new families begin and others grow larger. We're dedicated to making these moments extraordinary – so much so that many of our own doctors and staff would never go anywhere else to deliver their own babies. Experience great beginnings for yourself: one-on-one family-centered nursing care, Level II Intensive Care Nursery, and 24-hour in-hospital pediatricians from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. Close to home and easy to reach when the moment arrives. Call today to schedule a tour and see for yourself why this is a great place to start your family.

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