

## Buchanan headed to Sacramento

Danville re-elects incumbents to Town Council;  
Measure WW passes > **page 5**

Vol. IV, Number 27 • November 7, 2008

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

### Father Frank's Kids

Danville priest's work continues to help orphans

> **page 17**

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

### Shoring up Front Street

Danville project repairing damage from 2005 storms

> **page 6**

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



# Stories from Afghanistan

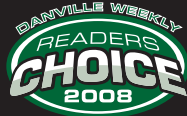
Young Danville soldier begins life as a veteran **PAGE 12**



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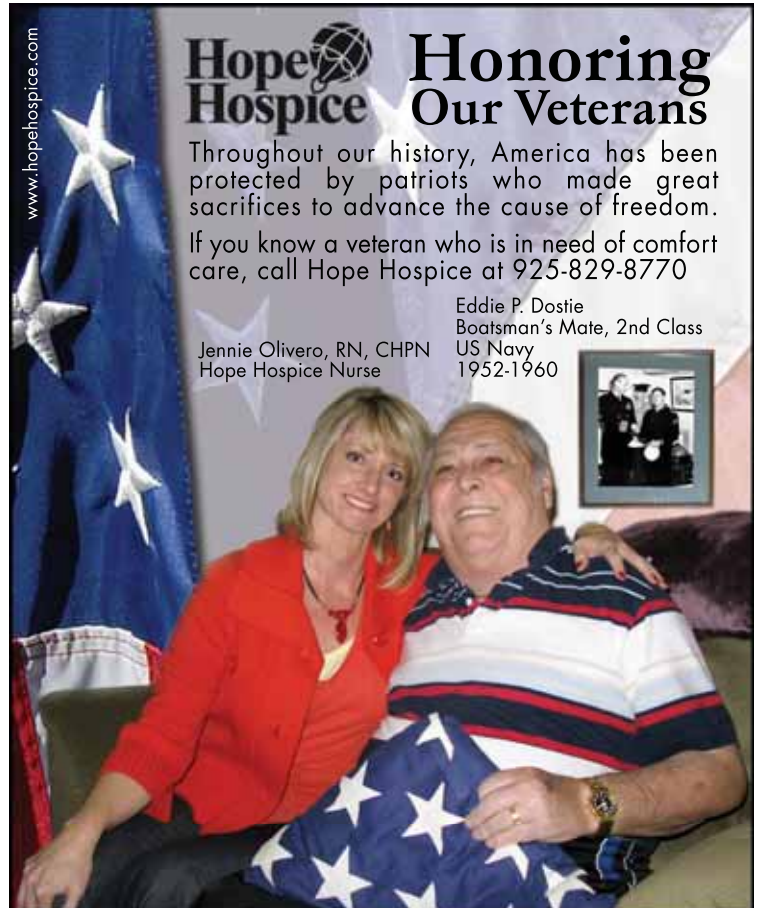
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Jennie Olivero, RN, CHPN  
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# Streetwise

ASKED AT BAGEL STREET CAFE IN DANVILLE

## Q: How do you get into the fall season?



I am actually thinking about moving down south to San Diego. We live in a large house in Danville and it's just the two of us so I want out before the cold winter hits. I am world famous for my French onion soup and just made a big pot of it. I also took my hammock down last week.

**Charles Moyer**  
consultant



Baking. We do cookies and pies. We decorate our house with leaves in the window, a scarecrow out front and a holiday wreath. We are ready! I teach culinary arts so I am teaching the kids how to make apple pies and corn muffins. We just did amazing spice cookies.

**Mari Moschetti**  
high school teacher



I have rain boots and splash in the puddles. It was so much fun. I have a Hello Kitty umbrella and I like warm chicken noodle soup.

**Julia Moschetti**  
4 years old



My mom decorates like no other. Once she brings out the Thanksgiving stuff, we start a fire, eat soup and I spend a lot more time in my sweatpants. I sleep more and can nap anytime. I like to listen to the rain in bed.

**Sarah Snapp**  
college student



I like to drink hot apple cider. I love to bundle up and watch movies. Fall is more family oriented so I spend more time at home.

**Amanda Wentling**  
college student

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

### ABOUT THE COVER

Army Specialist Ryan Williams, a graduate of Monte Vista High School, served with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. Now he is back living in Danville and spending his first Veterans Day as a veteran.

Vol. IV, Number 27

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ I remember the first time we got attacked. We went out to the bunker in full battle rattle. ”

—Ryan McWilliams, 22, a veteran remembering his tour in Afghanistan. See story, page 12.

## Gearing up for Veterans Day, Nov. 11

A Military Museum will be open at the Veterans Hall in Danville from Sunday to Tuesday, a chance for the family to view items from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Many residents bring items they own or have inherited to the display each year and it's not too late to contribute: Call Tony at 719-3506 or 743-8775. The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday-Tuesday, Nov. 9-11, at 400 Hartz Ave.

On Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, there will be a ceremony beginning at 10:45 a.m. at San Ramon Valley High School with members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 75, American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246, and Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley. It will take place at the Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd.

Also on Veterans Day, Cub Scout Pack 536 will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, 220 W. El Pintado Road, Danville. For more information, call Cub Master Ken Boasso at 552-9963.

## Increasing your odds against cancer

San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present a free community seminar, "Increasing Your Odds Against Cancer," from 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13.

Rishi Sawhney, oncologist and hematologist, will discuss the most dangerous cancers; how to decrease your risk; and what role genetics, screening and early detection play in good outcomes. He also will describe some of the latest cancer treatments available.

The program will be held in the Dougherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. To register call 284-2878 or visit [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com).

## Scouting for food next weekend

Thousands of Scouts, from first grade Cubs to teenage Scouts and volunteers, will be going house to house Saturday, Nov. 15, to collect food for families who are less fortunate. Residents are asked to donate canned and nonperishable food to be delivered by the Scouts to the Food Banks of Contra Costa and Solano counties, which supply food to more than 200 agencies. Door hangers, sponsored by Valero, will be delivered to households this week.

The number of people needing help with the basic essentials of life—food—has increased drastically. Each month, Bay Area Food Banks serve more than half a million people, 48 percent of whom are children. Last year the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America, collected almost 200,000 pounds of food and it is targeting 220,000 this year.

**Correction** The story Oct. 24 about tree lightings at 6 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Alamo Women's Club and at 5 p.m. Dec. 5 on Blackhawk Road at Blackhawk Drive should have said the lightings are sponsored by Hospice of the East Bay.

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](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com)

## Candidates, backers share exciting night

by Geoff Gillette

*Buchanan wins after Assembly race goes late into the night*

A close fought race for the 15th Assembly seat brought candidates, supporters and other luminaries out on Election Night.

On the Republican side, San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson held a party for his supporters at Club Sport San Ramon. More than 100 people were there at 10 p.m., anxiously waiting reports from Contra Costa, Alameda, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

Wilson spent the majority of his time talking to supporters and meeting with members of the Danville Town Council as well as outgoing Assemblyman Guy Houston. The candidate was all smiles talking to those in attendance and noted he was excited to see the support he's received.

"It's a great night. I'm just so glad to see all these people who've come out here to be with me tonight," he said.

Also at Club Sport were Danville Town Council incumbents Newell Arnerich and Candace Andersen. Even though the vote count was still sparse, Arnerich, Andersen and fellow incumbent Mike Doyle were well ahead in the race over challenger Marianne Bordogna.

Andersen, who faced a contentious election season due to her support for the controversial Proposition 8, said she was glad that the elections were over and they could get to work on the tasks still facing Danville.

"I think we've accomplished a lot, but we still have more things to do, like the Vets Hall," Andersen said other issues that they will be looking at in the years ahead will be the Danville Hotel property, as well as shepherding the town through the current economic turmoil gripping the nation.

"I'm confident that the Town Council will do all we can to continue to meet the needs of the community," she said.

Arnerich looked at the ballots that had been counted at that point



With votes still to be counted, Joan Buchanan, Democratic Candidate for Assembly District 15, addresses supporters at the Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Buchanan went on to win the race for the Assembly seat by a four-point margin.

make up District 15.

At 11 p.m., the numbers favored Buchanan in all four counties and spirits were running high. Many of the supporters bobbed along to the sounds of the live band playing in the ballroom while others sat and talked at tables just outside the room.

The candidate was not in evidence at 11 p.m., but shortly after she came out to cheers from those in attendance. She spent several minutes talking to supporters before going onstage to take the microphone.

Despite her lead at the time, Buchanan stayed cautiously optimistic. "I think it's going to be a late night," she said. She then went on to thank all of the people who've been a part of the campaign.

She talked about the funds raised for her run for Assembly. "We raised more money than any other Assembly race in the state," she said. "That takes effort and you all were a part of it."

Buchanan then talked about the multitude of volunteers who spent time going door to door, making phone calls, doing all the jobs needed to keep the campaign going. "It truly takes an army of volunteers," she said, "committed people to get a campaign running. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

Contra Costa County had a record turnout for the election. Out of 527,145 voters, 370,775 votes were cast, or 70.3 percent.

Measure WW, placed on the ballot by the East Bay Regional Park District, passed with 71 percent of the vote; it needed a two-thirds majority to win. The measure extends a property tax to finance \$500 million in bonds during the next 20 years to continue the district's land-buying campaign. The district has increased by 34,000 acres in the last two decades.

"I think voters realize that this was an investment in the future," said Park District Board Member Beverly Lane, who represents the Danville area. "It will really help save the last open spaces in the East Bay and it's really for our children and our grandchildren." ■

and expressed confidence that their lead would bear out.

"Historically, the absentees kind of reveal the ultimate outcome," he said. "I think it's just an indicator that we've done a good job and Danville's run, from a financial point of view, very cautiously and conservatively."

Arnerich, who will rotate into the mayor's position Dec. 2, said part of what makes the council so effective is the wide variety of viewpoints represented. "Our council is diverse, and we've found a way to work together. Ninety-nine percent of the time we're on the same page."

He agreed with Andersen on the issues facing the town but had a few others he wants to see addressed as well. He said he would like to see some streamlining of the building and permitting processes in the town and is concerned about the ongoing effort to renovate the north end of Hartz.

He said the economy is having an effect on the town, and he

### Vote tallies

#### U.S. Representative District 11

(D) Jerry McNerney	130,678	55.2%
(R) Dean Andal	105,426	44.8%

#### California State Assembly District 15

(D) Joan Buchanan	99,833	52.9%
(R) Abram Wilson	89,013	47.1%

#### Danville Town Council

Newell Arnerich	13,151	30.5%
Candace Andersen	12,777	29.63%
Mike Doyle	12,849	29.8%
Marianne Bordogna	4,226	9.8%
Write-in	121	.28%

#### Measure WW

Yes	504,729	71%
No	202,513	29%

hopes residents do what they can to help preserve those businesses that make their home in Danville. "This will be the most important year for Danville residents to support Danville businesses," he said. "Don't go up to Walnut Creek to do your shopping, do it here in Danville. We have a lot of great businesses here in town and some of them are at risk."

To the north, at the Round Hill Country Club, supporters of the Democratic candidate for Assembly District 15, Joan Buchanan, an Alamo resident, danced and chatted in one of the main ballrooms at the country club.

Buchanan's staff had projectors set up throughout the ballroom. Two showed television news channels following the Presidential race and other state and national elections. In the center of the room, a series of laptops were hooked into another projector, showing statistics from the four counties that



From left: Incumbent Danville Town Councilman Newell Arnerich enjoys a moment with Town Planning Commission Chairman Robert Storer during an election party for Assembly candidate Abram Wilson at Club Sport San Ramon; Danville Mayor Candace Andersen talks to supporters at Club Sport while attending Election Night festivities. Andersen, Arnerich and incumbent Mike Doyle all won re-election Tuesday night; Abram Wilson, the Republican candidate for the 15th District Assembly seat, talks to outgoing Assemblyman Guy Houston at his Election Night campaign party.

# Front Street project nearing completion

2005 storm damage to creek bank is being repaired

by Geoff Gillette

An ongoing downtown street project may see completion by the end of the year. Two years ago, work began on Front Street north of Diablo Road to East Linda Mesa to repair damage done in a massive rainstorm Dec. 31, 2005.

Danville Senior Civil Engineer Mike Stella said the storm dumped more than three inches of water into the creek abutting the road.

"At that particular site the water in the creek rose to levels we hadn't seen in a long, long time," he said. "The soil was saturated and softened, some trees collapsed into the creek and the water started washing the soil away."

The result was that much of the bed was eroded away, leaving a very steep slope near the roadway and undermining some of the road-bed itself.

"If this weren't fixed we could have potentially lost a portion of the road," explained Stella.

Because Gov. Schwarzenegger announced a state of emergency, the work was eligible for a grant. Funds for the project were obtained from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) through FEMA. Between design and execution, the cost of the project has been estimated at around \$929,000. Stella said FEMA will fund 75 percent; OES will fund 18.75 percent; and Danville will fund the remaining 6.25 percent.

Design work began in November 2006, and the town hired Jim Freethy Excavating to handle the job. Stella said the plan was to have Freethy build a retaining wall to support the roadway, then to



Geoff Gillette

Traffic is funneled to one lane and one direction while work is done on Front Street just north of Diablo Road to construct a retaining wall to support the roadway, then to rebuild the creek bed.

rebuild the creek bed.

The wall is now in place and the contractor will be installing cables and "tie-back" anchors to pull the wall in toward the road, giving both additional stability.

Stella said once that is completed the contractor will lower half ton boulders down on the creek bank and put topsoil over it. After the boulders are covered, a special biodegradable blanket will be placed over the topsoil to provide erosion control. Trees and ground cover will be planted through the blanket. As they take

root, the blanket will degrade and eventually the root systems will stabilize the soil of the bank.

With the bank work done, Stella said the final step is to repair minor damage done to the roadway by the heavy machinery needed to do the work. If all goes well, it could be done by the end of next month.

"If the weather stays dry, maybe by next month," he said. "If the weather is really bad in the next couple of weeks we may be forced to suspend the work until winter passes." ■

# School board to seek parcel tax renewal

Issue to be decided in May with mail-in ballot

by Geoff Gillette

After the narrow failure of Measure D last spring, many questioned whether the San Ramon Valley Unified School District's Board of Education would bring the issue back to the voters. That question has now been answered, as members of the board decided at an Oct. 31 special meeting to move forward with placing a parcel tax measure on the ballot.

School district spokesman Terry Koehne said the issue revolves around a parcel tax approved in April 2004 that will be expiring this year. Under the current tax, residents pay \$90 per year, which goes to fund several programs in the district. Those include class size reductions, school librarians, counselors at the middle and high school levels, and the fifth-grade instrumental music program.

"The main message here is that this is something that is critical for us in order for us to preserve the quality of education in this community. It is imperative that we renew this measure," Koehne explained.

Koehne said the board has been discussing the issue for the last several months and was wrestling with whether to put the issue on the ballot in March, May or June.

At its last regular meeting the board directed staff to look into the feasibility of a March election

"We looked into it and it is just too soon. It wouldn't allow for a substantial enough campaign and would limit our campaign time to only a month or so," Koehne said.

Board members unanimously approved pushing ahead for a May 5 date for the election, which will be conducted solely through mail-in ballot. Koehne said the election will present some advantages and some challenges.

"The May (mail-in) election is about \$200,000 cheaper to do. They're easier to process, you don't have to staff the polling places or incur all those incidental costs." He added, "It's risky though, from the standpoint that we've never done one before."

Board members also approved the hiring of TBWD strategies for election consultation and EMC Research to conduct a survey of area residents before the issue goes to the ballot.

"We'll be surveying people around specific questions regarding the length of the term of the tax, the amount ... issues that will let us fine tune the ballot language before it goes to the voters," Koehne said.

The survey is expected to be conducted over the next two months, with a resolution officially placing the parcel tax issue on the ballot expected to come sometime in late January. ■

**"The main message here is that this is something that is critical for us in order for us to preserve the quality of education in this community."**

—School district spokesman Terry Koehne

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## How do you spell Rotary?

Rancho Romero Elementary School third-grader Brooke Sonu opens up her brand new dictionary while seat mate Elizabeth Fergus looks on. Third-graders at all Alamo schools received new dictionaries from members of the Alamo Rotary Club on Tuesday morning.

## Danville Weekly moves

*Computer emergency necessitates move;  
smaller office planned in town*

The Danville Weekly suddenly moved out of its office on Diablo Road last week after its computer server crashed while work was being done for the issue of Oct. 31. The staff moved to the Embarcadero Publishing Co. East Bay offices in Pleasanton, which also house the operations of the Pleasanton Weekly newspaper.

"The move to Pleasanton was in the long-term plans," said East Bay president Gina Channell-Allen. "We cannot afford to keep the office at Diablo Road because we, like every other business in this economic downturn, are realizing a large decrease in revenue. However, the plan is to maintain a smaller office in Danville so people can come in to get copies, drop off press releases, meet with staff members, etc."

"The transition took place in a hasty manner," she continued, "because we started having technical difficulties with a server crashing. Logistically it became impossible to produce the paper from Danville. We hope to find a smaller place soon."

Production for the Danville Weekly has always been done out of the Pleasanton office, at 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100.

"We want to be in our namesake town, but we also need to maintain

a viable business," Channell-Allen added. "We're not out to make a huge profit, but the employees want and deserve to be paid, and we have to meet our financial commitments."

She also emphasized the company's commitment to continue publishing the print edition of the Danville Weekly while working to improve its online edition, [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com). Last month, the paper debuted Danville Weekly Express, which delivers headlines to subscriber Internet inboxes each Friday morning.

To subscribe to either the print edition or Express, go to [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com) or telephone 837-8300. Both are free but must be requested.

"Printing and distributing a paper is expensive; we want to make sure the people who receive it want it," said Channell-Allen.

The Danville Weekly has been publishing since May 6, 2005. It is part of Embarcadero Publishing, which also produces three weekly newspapers on the peninsula—Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and the Almanac, serving Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley—and the Pacific Sun in Marin.

—Staff reports

## TAKE US ALONG



## Traveling in Croatia

Alice and Bob Beaton include their Weekly while touring in Pula, Croatia, and visiting a Roman amphitheater built in the 1st Century A.D. last October.

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# SPCA offers \$5,000 reward in killing of two horses

Horses shot at private ranch in Livermore last week—detectives questioning teens in Danville

The East Bay SPCA is the latest to offer a reward in the deaths of two horses at a private ranch in Livermore. The animal shelter announced it would offer \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the killings Oct. 21.

The owners of the ranch, Michael and Marianne Rountree, have put forward \$5,000 and donations from the public have brought the reward to a total of \$17,000.

“The detective believes it’s some-

one in the area that is either a teenager or in their 20s that is familiar with the area,” said Greg Rountree, another owner, adding that teenagers from Danville are known to party on Collier Canyon and Highland Road.

He also noted that a cow was shot on Manning Road and the horses were shot on Collier Canyon that evening with the same .223 rifle. He said authorities believe the crime occurred at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday night based on a witness that heard three shots and the autopsy report from UC Davis.

The two horses, named Choctaw and Lucky, worked on the Rountree’s Collier Canyon Road ranch with sick and developmentally disabled children.

“One of the horses was a show horse that has been seen by millions of people on TV in parades like the Rose Parade, and frequently visited children at the Shriner Hospitals and Adaptive Local Riding Centers,” Rountree said. “The other horse we rescued in March from the SPCA and had just been nurtured back to health. He was shot twice in the stomach

and died after he had walked 1/4 mile trying to get back to the barn.”

He said publicity generated a call from Canada with an offer to ship a horse to the Rountrees.

“It is tragic and frightening that someone would have such disregard for life,” said East Bay SPCA Operation Director Amelia Funghi. “That disregard caused two innocent and beautiful animals needless suffering and the loss of their lives.”

Rountree said investigators would like to talk to the owner of a white Acura TSX model sedan, year range

narrowed down to a 2004-2007 model, with a loud muffler that crashed in to a barbed wire fence on Manning Road that evening around 9:30 p.m. The car will be scratched from fence and have a broken taillight.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Scott Sutherland with the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Department at 313-2654, or the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department at (510) 667-7721.

—Janet Pelletier,  
Dolores Fox Ciardelli



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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Coffee with the veterans

Seven-year-old Don Monson had been fishing with his friend Jimmy in Stockton that hot August day in 1945. They were headed home when another kid called across a field: "The war is over." They raced home and Jimmy's mother verified that the Japanese had indeed surrendered.

"I can remember the first time I saw a soldier with a rifle and cartridge belt," Monson recalled over coffee last Friday. "It was the old San Francisco Airport, the old stucco building, and I wandered upstairs to the mezzanine. It was in '42-'43." The soldier was patrolling the airport.

Monson also said that a plane crashed into a hill by his school in Daly City and the students were assembled.

"They told us to be careful playing," he said. "They held up some ammunition and said if we see something like this we should tell someone—don't play with it."

Monson grew up and joined the Marine Corps and now is one of a dozen or so veterans who meet for breakfast at Country Waffles in Danville at 10 a.m. each weekday morning. I joined them Friday in anticipation of Veterans Day.

Russell Gorman, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret), also remembered VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, Aug. 15, 1945. It came only two days after he was commissioned.

On that same day John Goerl, now 85 and a resident of Alamo, was in the Philippines in the Army 24th Infantry Division. He had been released from the hospital

at Lehte and was on his way to Mindanao late at night, on an LSI (Landing Ship Infantry) quietly maneuvering through the dark and silent Lehte Gulf.

"We were on our way when someone says, 'The Emperor is capitulating,'" Goerl recalled. "The captain let us listen to the Emperor on the radio. I thought we were alone, but after the speech, ships all around us starting setting off flare rockets—it was like the Fourth of July."

The five veterans around the table all recalled the blackouts that were standard during World War II in California as everyone expected a Japanese attack.

"After the war, it was difficult to get used to the light," said Monson. "You automatically wanted to turn the light out."

Locally, the beacon on Mount Diablo was extinguished the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor, after it had shone for airplanes since its installation in 1928 by Standard Oil Co. The mountaintop light was part of a system of beacons that began in San Diego to guide airplane flying up and down the length of the state, said Monson.

"(Charles) Lindbergh turned the light on," he said. "And that night, Dec. 7, 1941, they turned the light off—they didn't want an attack by the Japanese."

By the end of the war, aircraft had other means of navigation so the beacon was not relit. But in 1963, said Monson, the Pearl Harbor Survivors had the light repaired and turned it on again Dec. 7 to commemorate the infa-

mous bombing and the entry of the United States into World War II. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz came from his home on Yerba Buena Island to flick the switch.

"There were 140 original members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors but there are now 11," Monson said about the local organization. "Three have passed away recently. The youngest are in their 80s." Now the sons, daughters and friends of the survivors attend the ceremony.

Mac McCuskey fought with the 7th Marine Division in Korea. "It was a tough outfit," he noted. McCuskey is former commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 75 and has been busy with current VFW Commander Tony Carnemolla assembling war memorabilia for the exhibit at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave., in Danville. McCuskey said they have use of a Vietnam War helicopter but aren't sure where they can display it. This year the military exhibit will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 11. A Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday at San Ramon Valley High School.

Also at the table was Herb Johnson, who served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He was in Europe when the war there ended but was reluctant to share a story about something that happened in Germany which the other men seemed to know. Although they were very hospitable to me, I have a feeling their best stories come out when I'm not there. And why not? They share a veterans' bond.

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**ONLINE READER POLL**

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**Should the Danville  
Town Council allow  
three story buildings  
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**Results from last week:**

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

- ✓ **No:** 53.05%
- Undecided:** 0.61%
- Yes:** 46.34%
- Total votes:** 164

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Fiscally safer**

Dear Editor:

I support Alamo incorporation because the town will be fiscally safer in a financial downturn. The town would not incur overhead costs of buildings, maintenance yards, equipment and employee pension benefits because most town services and employees would be contracted.

Alamo's taxes would no longer go to pay down the county's unfunded \$1.7 billion liability for employee benefits. The newly realized expanded property tax revenues of Alamo's older homes that come on the market would go to the new town rather than to the county, which can spend them elsewhere.

And the town would not be responsible for costs of the county's public health and welfare and child and adult protective services that always increase in an economic downturn.

More information about fiscal health of the new town can be found online at [www.contracostaalafco.org](http://www.contracostaalafco.org).

*Grace Schmidt, Alamo*

**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Election for the record**

We are wrapping up the longest, most exciting campaign in recent memory. No matter which way the presidential race went, history was going to be made, with the first black president or the first woman vice president.

We watched U.S. Sen. Barack Obama win the Democratic primary then go on to campaign and be elected president of the United States. We also were spectators as John McCain, a war hero and senator known for being independent, took unprecedented gambles in an attempt to win the election.

There was a downside to the campaign. We grew weary of the mud slinging that took place in the campaigns both for state and for national office, including our two local residents running for the state Assembly.

Also we have heard many people say that they will never view their neighbors the same after seeing who and what they supported because of the signs in their yards. Our ballots may be secret but many of us are

so proud of our candidates and our positions that we choose to go public with them.

The saddest campaign in the Danville area was that for and against Proposition 8. The forces behind the initiative worked to convince everyone that the constitution must be changed to prohibit same-sex marriages to protect the institution; opponents didn't buy the argument, believing marriage is for any two people who want to make a commitment to each other. This bitter campaign turned neighbors against each other as people on each side struggled to understand how those they'd viewed as friends could differ so greatly in their feelings on this subject.

Despite all the rancor of the campaigns, it has been an exciting time. Never have so many been captivated by the four candidates for the top offices in the country. Even on Election Day, supporters of candidates were out with their posters, perhaps hoping their enthusiasm would be contagious. And it was.

**What's your opinion?**

Write a Letter to the editor at [Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com) or put your opinion on Town Square at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

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by Geoff Gillette

It reads like a scene out of every great war movie ever made. Young soldiers running through a minefield, rusted hulks of Russian tanks and airplanes littering the landscape.

It's not a movie, though; it was everyday life for Ryan McWilliams, a 22-year-old Danville resident who recently left the Army after his tour of duty in Afghanistan.

McWilliams joined the Army in 2004, not long after graduating from Monte Vista High School. The lanky red head and a friend decided during their senior year that once they graduated they would be joining.

"It was the whole 9/11 attack that made us want to join. I wanted to do something. Mike and I joined the Army together. We both wanted to serve our country," McWilliams explained.

Hollywood had some impact on which branch of the military he chose for his service.

"Just growing up watching all those war movies, it just seemed like those other guys really didn't do as much. Something about the Army drew me to it."

Just making the decision to join up wasn't quite enough. McWilliams had to jump through some hoops to get in when his physical condition was questioned.

"I went to the recruiting station in Livermore. It took some work to get in because I had to have some waivers signed." He added, "I had asthma when I was younger and I'd had some knee surgery. I had to prove those wouldn't be a factor."

Nearly six months after enlisting, the approval came back and McWilliams was shipped to Fort Jackson, S.C., for basic training.

"It was kind of what I expected," he said. "There was a lot of hard work, very tiring, and you don't get much sleep. Looking back, I think I had a lot of fun there, not counting the whole sleep deprivation thing."

Basic training is exactly what its name implies. New recruits are given the basic instruction they will need to be soldiers.

"You are there for nine weeks," McWilliams said. "They train everyone with those basic skills because no matter what you do in the Army you're still a soldier."

One of McWilliams' fondest memories of basic training came toward the end.

"It was the last week of training. We'd go out in the field and sort of show what we learned." He added, "I was the unofficial squad leader, I was in charge of five or six soldiers. We had to follow a map out to a predetermined spot in the woods."

McWilliams said they encountered the enemy twice during that exercise. "Once we got ambushed. We got away with no casualties. Then we found the actual enemy stronghold. We set up our position and took it. No casualties, which was pretty cool."

As pleased as he was by the completion of the mission, he was more excited when he was commended by an officer. "The lieutenant colonel of my brigade actually came up to me and said it was some of the finest soldiering he'd seen in a while and he was really impressed by how I executed everything."

It was also during basic that McWilliams began to get a sense for where he would go in the Army. "I went to Advanced Individual Training (AIT), which is where I learned how to work on the Humvees and the big diesel trucks."

McWilliams became a 63rd Bravo Light Wheel Mechanic, caring for the large trucks and other motorized units used in the Army. He worked on a number of vehicles but learned he had a special knack for the Humvee. "I could literally take it down to the frame." He laughed and added, "I could do it with one hand tied behind my back."

Once AIT was completed, the next stage for McWilliams was assignment to Fort Drum, N.Y. Fort Drum is home to the 10th Mountain Division. Assigned to the 227th Aviation Support Battalion, he dove into his job of support staff for the large armored vehicles.

"I worked on everything," McWilliams recalled. "I pulled the engine out of an LMTV cargo truck, swapped transmissions, whatever was needed to get them ready to be shipped."

Having grown up in California, McWilliams was unprepared for the fierce upstate New York winters. On one assignment, he got to experience that winter weather firsthand.

"We were loading vehicles onto flatbed trains to go to be deployed. That was a crazy day. It was negative 25 out there and it had just snowed so all of the flatbeds had about a foot of powder on them," he said. "We had to shovel all the snow off of them before we could bring the trucks up."

In addition, the flexible roof assemblies of the Humvees and other vehicles couldn't stay on while the trucks were being shipped so the crews had to stow them and drive the vehicles to the train with no tops on.

"That was cold. Some of them had snow in them. I like to tell people that we were smoking cigarettes that morning and in between puffs the butt would freeze solid."

McWilliams found that he missed the cold when a few months later he and other members of the 227 were deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"It was rainy and cool when we got there but it heated up in a hurry," he said. "We had a thermometer outside our IT people's tent and it went up to 145."

McWilliams said he did not know what to expect when he went to Kandahar, but he was certainly surprised by the stark beauty of the mountains and the countryside.

"There was a lightning storm one day. You could see these purple clouds coming over the mountains and the clouds were just so ... the



At left, Ryan McWilliams works on one of the many Army Humvees he saw as a Light Wheel Mechanic with the 227th Aviation Support Battalion. Right, a minefield in Afghanistan. Soldiers were warned to stay on the paved road while jogging outside the base due to the minefields.

# Stories from Afghanistan

Young Danville soldier begins life as a



Early evening at Bagram Air Base. The harsh reality of the base is framed by the snowcapped majesty of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The mountains are a mile above sea level.



CONTRIBUTED BY RYAN MCWILLIAMS

light, the fields outside Bagram Air Base in

om  
an  
veteran



ains, a sub-range of the Himalayas, towers

lightning coming out of them was this purple, too.”

Despite the change in locale, the job remained the same.

“My unit was tasked with bringing all the Humvees in southern Afghanistan up to battle readiness. I worked every day from dark to dark on 10 to 15 Humvees. We went 35 days without a day off.”

Adding to the challenge was that his unit stationed at Kandahar was missing valuable equipment. “We didn’t have any power tools. All the power tools went to the guys stationed up north. We borrowed things, we made it work.”

While at Kandahar, McWilliams met members of the local populace, many of whom worked at the base. “They were very polite, very nice. But you didn’t know if they were being all cool and nice now but if you ran into them off base it was another ball game.”

McWilliams spoke of meeting an Afghan who was a general.

“We were on convoy training. I was the gunner and I dropped down into the turret to cool off and there was a general there with his translator,” he remembered. “The translator said he wanted to talk to me and he asked me questions. He wanted to know where I was from and I said California. The first thing he (the general) said was, ‘Baywatch.’”

Despite the cordial relations with the locals, the base was under attack frequently with mortar shells

“We got attacked a bunch while I was there,” McWilliams said. “Had a close one. I was working on a truck and it (a mortar) landed right outside our building. Our buildings were in rows five or six deep and it landed one row over from us.”

McWilliams said debris they found the next day showed that the device had been a white phosphorous mortar.

“They are supposed to explode in the air, the phosphorous catches fire and rains down on people. We were lucky this one landed and hit a Texas barricade (a large concrete barricade) which stopped the majority of it.”

The attacks came with such frequency that the soldiers stationed there began to take them as a part of daily life.

“I remember the first time we got attacked,” McWilliams stated. “We went out to the bunker in full battle rattle. My heart was pounding in my chest. But by the time I left Kandahar, if the alarm went off I’d make sure I grabbed my lawn chair and my cigarettes and would still be wearing my T-shirt and shorts.”

This blasé attitude didn’t indicate any sort of fatalism on McWilliam’s part. He explained, “We didn’t really get scared from it. It was just kind of part of being there. If you got scared from it you were going to be terrified the whole time you were there.”

After eight months in Kandahar, McWilliams travelled to the Bagram base, outside Kabul. Bagram is a former Russian base from its 10-year occupation. Living conditions were harsher than those in Kandahar and soldiers like McWilliams had to make do with what was available. “It was kind of like a prison,” he joked, “with a few more amenities.”

The stark environment was made harsher by the fields of unexploded mines surrounding the base.

“It was weird. We’d be out on our PT (physical training) runs and there’d be these lines of engineer stakes out there that you could just reach out and grab. They were marking where the mines started.”

Despite the marking stakes McWilliams said they always stuck to the paved road while out on their runs ... just in case.

After five months spent in Bagram, McWilliams was rotated back to the United States where he served the bulk of his term of service. He returned to California in April 2008 after being given a medical discharge and is now working for Longs Drugs while he prepares to go to school.

Being back home has been an adjustment. “It is kind of weird,” he said. “I got lost a couple of times. I didn’t remember a lot of people. I didn’t have too many problems with it, but it was just sort of strange being back.”

Another adjustment he’s made is the idea that he is now a veteran. “It sort of sets you apart because you’ve been through stuff that people don’t see on TV. I like it, I like to think of it as well deserved, well earned bragging rights.”

He said being a soldier today is so different from in the days of World Wars I and II. “They went through a lot crazier stuff than I did. Way more people kept getting knocked off but they just kept on going. There’s not as many people getting killed now but it’s a different kind of war.”

The difference for McWilliams is being able to know your enemy. “You had an obvious enemy back in the day. Here you don’t know who the enemy is,” he said. “A 7-year-old walking by you on the street could pull out a weapon.”

At the same time, technological advances have made the process of war much different as well. “You’re sitting in a Humvee today and you could order an airstrike as easily as ordering something online. You just touch the area on the map, click the options and then hit send. It could be an airstrike or a medevac, it’s just that easy.”

Once his paperwork is processed, McWilliams plans to take classes at Wyotech to get his certification as a diesel mechanic, using the skills he picked up while serving with the 227th. Regardless of where his schooling takes him, though, he said he will always value the time he spent as a soldier.

“I made friends for life. I learned a lot,” he said. “Mainly how to cope with the worst situations. So pretty much anything else I can come into contact with I can deal with. There’s nothing I can’t do if I don’t put an honest effort into it.” ■



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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Student cited for possessing knife and drugs

A San Ramon Valley High School sophomore was removed from school last Friday, Oct. 31, after he was found to be in possession of a knife and a small quantity of marijuana, according to police reports. Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said School Resource Officer Jeff Phelps was dispatched to the office on a report that a 15-year-old boy was being detained for possession of marijuana.

Williams said the teenager was brought in after school administrators were tipped off regarding the drug possession. Phelps determined that the youth did indeed have a small quantity of the drug, said Williams. A subsequent search of his backpack also revealed a locking knife with a two-inch blade.

The student told Phelps that he was holding the drugs for another student and the reason he had the knife was that another student had been threatening him. He claimed to be holding the weapon to defend himself. Interviews with other students at the high school failed to corroborate the boy's claims of a threat to his safety.

Williams said the student was released to his parents with a juvenile citation. He will go through the Danville Police Department's diversion program. If he completes his time with the program no charges will be filed.

The student could still face expulsion from San Ramon Valley High School. District officials said state education code allows for the principal of a high school to seek expulsion against a student if circumstances warrant it.

—Geoff Gillette

## POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available:

### Monday, Oct. 27

- Prowler heard on 700 block of Tunbridge Rd. at 4:43 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on 100 block of St. Joan Ct. at 1:03 p.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 500 block of Glasgow Circle at 8:30 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 1400 block of Harlan Dr. at 9:40 p.m.

### Tuesday, Oct. 28

- Public nuisance on 400 block of Front St. at 7:36 a.m.
- Residential burglary on 100 block of Casablanca St. at 9:39 a.m.
- Recovered stolen vehicle on Camino Tassajara/Tassajara Ln. at 10:04 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on Danville Blvd./Hartz Ave. at 12:13 p.m.
- Trespassing on 100 block of St. Ann Ct. at 3:43 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 29

- Vandalism on 500 block of

Morninghome Rd. at 9:11 a.m.

- Drunk in public on 100 block of Railroad Ave. at 1:34 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop on 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 5:18 p.m.
- Petty theft on 700 block of Contada Circle at 8:57 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 1800 block of Peters Ranch Rd. at 10 p.m.

### Thursday, Oct. 30

- Suspicious vehicle stop on 200 block of La Questa Dr. at 1:07 a.m.
- Civil disturbance on Camino Tassajara/Crow Canyon Rd. at 8:47 a.m.
- Suspicious subject on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 12:37 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on 800 block of El Pintado Rd. at 2:11 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Camino Tassajara/Sycamore Valley Blvd. at 4:15 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Podva Rd./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:24 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 8:14 p.m.

### Friday, Oct. 31

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara/Old Camino Tassajara at 3:01 a.m.
- Petty theft on 100 block of Mapleglen Ct. at 7:53 a.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Zephyr Pl. at 9:52 a.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 400 block of Sycamore Circle at 10:56 a.m.
- Threats disturbance on 100 block of St. Ann Ct. at 11:32 a.m.
- Identity theft on 1200 block of Brookside Dr. at 12:16 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Park N Ride at 3:45 p.m.
- Vandalism on 500 block of Everett Dr. at 10:30 p.m.
- Suspicious subject at Taco Bell at 10:33 p.m.
- Drunk in public on 600 block of Las Barrancas Dr. at 10:47 p.m.
- Music disturbance on Estates Dr./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:07 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### 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 a 1993 Teacher of the Year Award. Work created in her art programs for mentally disabled children received many 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.

### Christine Ann Silva

Danville resident Christine Ann Silva, 59, lost a courageous battle with lung cancer and emphysema on Sept. 15.

She was born in (South) San Francisco on Aug. 2, 1949, to George Jones and Elizabeth Bigelow Jones. She lived most of her youth in Calaveras County; Nelson, British Columbia; and Santa Rosa. She spent most of her adult life in Redding; South Lake Tahoe; Gardnerville, Nev.; and Danville. She attended Notre Dame University, Nelson BC, Canada; Shasta College and SLT Community College. She spent 22 years as a real estate agent before becoming a medical billing software specialist for Web MD.

She is survived by her father George Jones; former husband Bob Silva; partner Danny Wycech; daughter Erin Davenport and her husband Larry Davenport; son Ryan Silva; son Jeff Silva and his wife Sherri Silva; four grandchildren; and her poodle Rosie. A Celebration of Life was held in South Lake Tahoe on Oct. 11. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or Hospice of the East Bay.

### 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 was 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. He is survived by 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 Church in Danville. He was buried with Helen at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette in a private ceremony.

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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Art

**Intersection of Art and Technology**  
The Pioneer Art Gallery is presenting "Getting There," by Marv Jasper, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., through Sunday, Nov. 9, at 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. This is immersive art that allows gallery visitors to walk in and around the installation of sculpture, sound and visual effects. This event is free. 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](mailto:adasartgallery@sbcglobal.net).

## Author Visit

**Author Garth Stein at Norm's Place** New York Times bestselling author Garth Stein will meet with readers at Norm's Place at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, 356 Hartz Ave., Danville to discuss his book, "The Art of Racing In The Rain." Rakestraw Books is sponsoring this unique opportunity to mingle and chat with an internationally known bestselling author. This event is free. For information, call 837-7337.

## Classes

**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.

## Events

**Animal Lover's Boutique** The ninth annual Animal Lover's Boutique will take place 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. It features

unique animal related gifts including Cat's Meow toys and fashions, jewelry, greeting cards, home decor, whimsical ornaments and more. Proceeds benefit the Valley Humane Society's Just Like New Fund to provide care for animals in the Tri-Valley. Call 846-2512.

**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.

## Exhibits

**Indians in the Valley** The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is running its

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## CALENDAR

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.

## Fundraisers

**Candy Cane Christmas Boutique** Macedonian Outreach will host the Candy Cane Boutique, 5-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Items 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 benefit children in the Balkans. Call 820-1432.

**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 American'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](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us) or call 855-1950.

## 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.

## Kids and Teens

**Teen Paintball** Come enjoy the rush and excitement of paintball with the Town of Danville, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24, at Sunol Paintball. Cost is \$80, which includes transportation, staff supervision, and rental equipment including marker, hopper, CO2 tank, all day air refill, and 500 rounds of paint. Find information about the field at [www.sunolpaintball.com](http://www.sunolpaintball.com). Pre-registration required; call 314-3400.

## 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.

**Frankly Speaking about New Discoveries in Cancer** This workshop explains new discoveries in cancer treatment and possible future directions. It also outlines advances in side effect management and psychosocial aspects related to dealing with cancer, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Visit [www.twcba.org](http://www.twcba.org) or call 933-0107.

**Homebuyers' Workshop** The time has come to stop renting and own your own home. Come to an informative workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 15, Rose Garden Shopping Center, 760 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 984-9658 for reservations or e-mail [Claire@ClaireShepherdson.com](mailto:Claire@ClaireShepherdson.com). Free.

**What Can You Do to Improve Your Health?** Kiwanis members come learn from Pamela McDonald, author of "APOE Gene Diet," how nutrition and integrative medicine improves health; 1-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Rd., Alamo. E-mail [admin@kiwanis-srv.org](mailto:admin@kiwanis-srv.org).

**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

**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](mailto:oscarf1@earthlink.net).

## Live Music

**Jazz at Peace Sax Player** Pete Yellin, the all-or-nothing sax man with the New York bop sound, will bring his fine quartet to the Jazz at Peace series at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9. Everyone is welcome to join in this extraordinary interfaith event at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Call 648-7000. Free

## Miscellaneous

**Adopt a Family Bike Drive** St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is sponsoring the Adopt a Family Bike Drive. Used bikes in need of minor repairs can be dropped off at 1901 Camino Ramon, Ste. C, Danville, from 4-6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15; or 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16. Bikes can also be left at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville, Nov. 1-15. Tax receipts are available. For information e-mail [taniahd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taniahd@sbcglobal.net).

## On Stage

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

## Political Notes

**Blackhawk Republican Women luncheon** Larry Greenfield, California Director, Republican Jewish Coalition, will speak on "The Future of American Conservatism: A GOP Agenda Going Forward," 11:15-1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 12, Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Greenfield is a lawyer who formerly worked in naval intelligence, has documented human rights in 75 countries and eight war zones. Reserve by noon, Nov. 10. Cost is \$20. Call 820-6452 or visit [www.blackhawkrwf.org](http://www.blackhawkrwf.org).

## Volunteering

**American Red Cross Volunteer Orientation** Tour the Contra Costa Blood Center and learn about the different ways to help, 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11; or 3 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14, at 140 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill. Jobs include to greet, inform and thank blood donors or post fliers. Dates and times are subject to change according to interest. Call (510) 594-5211.

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## Father Frank's Kids

Work of St. Isidore priest continues to help children in Central America



COURTESY FRANCESCA DUNBAR

Folkloric dancers from Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in Nicaragua entertain at Father Frank's Fiesta at St. Isidore Parish in September. Its homes in Central America are partly supported through Father Frank's Kids, an organization run by volunteers at St. Isidore.

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

In 1954, a little boy in a Mexican village stole some money from the poor box of the small church. The young priest, an American named William Wasson, would not press charges and instead asked for custody of the boy. The judge not only agreed but sent him eight more homeless boys the following week. By the end of the year, Wasson was making a home for 32 boys.

This was the beginning of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters," which has come to be supported by St. Isidore Parish in Danville through an organization known as Father Frank's Kids.

Father Frank Colacicco came to live at St. Isidore after he retired at 65 due to health problems. He attended a conference of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, where he met Sister Phyllis Kelleher, who asked him to develop support at St. Isidore for her children in Nicaragua. He threw himself into the project and began to spend three to five months each year with the children in Nicaragua.

"Father Frank loved the children in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico," recalled Francesca Dunbar, an Alamo resident who is active at St. Isidore, where her 9-year-old daughter Sabrina attends school. "He used to travel back and forth."

Through his efforts, containers were sent to the orphanages in those countries; St. Isidore Parish now sends on average 16,000 pounds of goods such as bicycles, school supplies, food and clothing to the orphanages each year.

Father Frank died Feb. 15, 2006, when he was visiting Casa Santiago Orphanage in Nicaragua to attend the dedication of its amphitheater, which he helped fund. The dedication continued, honoring Father Frank, who was buried in front of the church. And Father Frank's Kids lives on.

### Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in 2007

- 3,223 children being cared for in nine NPH homes
- 177 under the age of 5 years
- 442 arrived in the last year
- 798 in secondary or vocational school
- 478 in college or taking college prep courses
- 368 child care workers are caring for the children

Last spring Danville residents Barbara and Patrick McGovern visited one of the orphanages in Mexico, where 600 children were living in a compound with classrooms, dormitories, grassy soccer fields, an expansive garden where they harvest their own produce, a barnyard where they raise their own pigs and chicken, and a chapel.

"We were delighted to personally meet so many well cared for children," said Barbara McGovern.

"They were wearing uniforms very similar to the ones worn at St. Isidore Catholic School," said Patrick McGovern. "These children are clearly living wholesome lives, are being provided a strong academic education and practical life skills."

Those children are all given a high school education plus an opportunity to learn a trade or continue their education at the university level. They also dedicate a year or two after high school providing leadership and service to the younger children at the orphanage.

"This organization is...a series of miracles happening before your eyes," added McGovern.

For the last two years, St. Isidore volunteers have held Father Frank's Fiesta in late September to raise money for the organization. The fiesta includes carnival-type games, music, a buffet

dinner, auction and entertainment by children visiting from Nicaragua who have been helped by Father Frank's Kids.

The visiting dancers, who ranged in ages from 9 to 25, also went to St. Isidore School while classes were in session.

"They visited each of the classrooms and performed Folklorico dances," said Dunbar.

This year, she sponsored two of the group at her home—Maria, 18, a dancer; and Johana, 20, the maestra of the troupe. The visit lasted eight days.

The fiestas have raised more than \$60,000 each to continue Father Frank's good work for orphaned and abandoned children in Central America.

Dunbar said her family used to entertain Father Frank and other priests from St. Isidore in their home and they all would have a wonderful time.

"When I had Father Frank here with the other priests, little did I know that four years later I'd be part of this committee," said Dunbar.

Last year Father Frank's Kids donated an industrial washer and dryer to the home in Guatemala, where the laundry was being washed by hand.

"These machines are a great relief to our workers providing them more time to care for the children," wrote Matthias Hinz. He also said the children were amazed by the donations of clothing, sports equipment and school, art and sewing supplies that arrived at the same time.

"They asked me, 'Is that all for us?' It felt wonderful to answer them, 'Yes, these gifts are all for you,'" Hinz said.

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos has helped more than 15,000 children during the last 50 years, and now operates homes in nine countries: Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia and Peru. Today the homes are helping more than 2,800 children grow up well cared for, loved and educated. ■



## Easy one-dish meals

**O**K, here's a food trivia question: What do you get when you cook canned tuna with rice and cream of mushroom soup and crushed Ritz crackers sprinkled on top? It's called tuna casserole, of course.

Our mothers served a number of "casseroles" and the foreign word sounded quite exotic back then. Unfortunately, the word has gotten

a bad rap over the years. Maybe its questionable reputation emerged because mothers served them so often, they lost their unique appeal. Or, maybe it's because casseroles became a convenient label for the mystery dish that came from cleaning out the refrigerator or blending several nights of leftovers. Eventually, all casseroles began to taste like one version or another of lumpy cream of

mushroom soup, the term lost its luster, and its use diminished with time. So, I'm reluctant to resurrect the word "casserole" for this column. Why dredge up its sordid past?

However, there is still universal appeal to meals that can be prepared and served in one dish. In fact, the French word "casserole" refers to the large pot or dish used in the oven and as a serving dish. The word has also come to refer to the food cooked and served in such a dish. Casseroles usually consist of one or more meats or vegetables, a liquid, e.g., stock, wine, beer, or vegetable juices, and some kind of ingredient like rice, pasta or potato to thicken the sauce and complement the other foods. Casseroles may be served as a side dish but are often the main course.

As the weather cools, our cravings for soups, stews and casseroles increase. These dishes warm our bodies and provide a hearty meal after a long, hard day. Ma-Po is one of my favorite autumn/winter dishes but I think your family will enjoy all three of these recipes. They're great for potlucks, too!

*Jacqui Love Marshall's column runs every other week. E-mail her at [jllovermarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:jllovermarshall@yahoo.com).*

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## RECIPES

### Corn and Green Chili Tamale Casserole (serves 4)

- 6 4-oz frozen chicken or beef tamales
- 1 10-oz package frozen white or yellow corn
- 1 4-oz can diced mild green chilis
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 7-oz can salsa verde
- 1 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 cups grated Monterey Jack cheese
- Optional: Avocado wedges, Extra salsa verde

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place frozen tamales in microwave and cook on high until thawed, about 5 minutes. Remove husks.
2. Cut tamales in half lengthwise. Place in single layer in 10-inch round glass pie dish. Sprinkle with frozen corn, chilis, green onions and 1/2 cup cilantro.
3. Whisk cream, salsa verde, chili powder, cumin, salt and pepper in medium bowl to blend. Drizzle over everything. Sprinkle grated cheese over top. Bake casserole until heated through and bubbling, about 35 minutes.
4. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup cilantro. Serve with avocado and more salsa, as desired.

### Ma-Po Tofu—Spicy Tofu with Beef (serves 4)

- 1 tsp Sichuan peppercorns
- 1 1/2 pounds soft (not silken) tofu, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 Tbsp Chinese hot bean paste (also called chili bean sauce)\*
- 1 Tbsp Chinese black-bean paste or sauce\*
- 4 Tbsp oyster sauce
- 2 Tbsp Asian chili powder\*
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1/4 cup peanut oil
- 4 oz ground beef
- 1/4-inch piece fresh ginger, minced (about 1 tsp)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 scallion (white and green parts), thinly sliced on diagonal
- 1/4 cup rice wine
- 1 medium leek (white and pale green parts only), washed, halved lengthwise, and cut into 1/2-inch slices (about 1/2 cup)
- 1/2 cup chicken stock or low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 Tbsp light soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp dark soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped (optional)

\* Available at Asian markets and in the Asian section of some supermarkets

1. In a heavy skillet over moderate heat, stir and toast peppercorns until fragrant, 3-5 minutes. Transfer to bowl and let cool; grind in a spice grinder to fine powder and set aside.
2. In large pot over moderately high heat, bring 4 cups water to boil. Add the tofu, remove from heat, and let steep uncovered for 5 minutes. Using a

slotted spoon, transfer tofu to medium bowl and set aside.

3. In a small bowl, whisk together hot bean paste, black-bean paste, 2 Tbsp oyster sauce, and chili powder. Set aside.
4. In a small bowl, whisk together the cornstarch and 3 Tbsp water; set aside.
5. In a wok or heavy large sauté pan over moderate heat, heat oil until hot but not smoking. Add beef, ginger, garlic and scallions and stir-fry until meat is browned, about 1 minute. Add rice wine and cook, stirring occasionally, until most of moisture evaporates, about 1-2 min. Add hot bean paste mixture and cook, stirring occasionally, until mixture is blended and oil in pan turns red, about 1 minute.
6. Add tofu, leeks, stock, light and dark soy sauces, and remaining 2 Tbsp oyster sauce and bring to boil. Whisk cornstarch mixture to re-blend; add to pan and cook, stirring occasionally, until juices thicken slightly, about 1 minute.
7. Sprinkle with Sichuan peppercorn powder and cilantro, as desired. Serve immediately, with rice as side dish.

### Family Chicken Pot Pie (serves 6)

- 1 Tbsp each olive oil and butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 tsp finely minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp dried tarragon
- 3 carrots, halved and cut into 1-inch pieces (1-1/2 cups)
- 1 cup peeled and diced (1/2-inch) russet potatoes
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cored and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2-1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1 medium-sized ripe tomato, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch diced pieces
- 2-1/2 cups diced cooked chicken
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 sheet prepared puff pastry (1/2 pound), thawed if frozen
- 1 egg mixed with 1 Tbsp water

1. Heat the oil and butter in a pot over low heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring, for about 10 minutes. Add garlic and cook 2 minutes more. Sprinkle with the flour and tarragon; cook, stirring constantly, about 1-2 minutes more.

2. Add the carrots, potatoes, apple, and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a gentle simmer and cook, partially covered, until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes. Add the peas, dill, tomato and chicken; season to taste with salt and pepper, then cook 5 minutes more.

3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spoon the mixture into a 2-quart round ovenproof casserole. On a lightly floured surface, roll puff pastry out to form a circle 2 inches larger than the casserole. Brush some egg wash around the inside and outside rim of the casserole. Lay the pastry over the top, trim to 1 inch, and crimp the edges around the rim to seal.

4. Cut several slits in the pastry to release the steam, then brush with remaining egg wash. Bake until crust is golden, 40-45 minutes.

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## Hallowe'en parties and pranks in the San Ramon Valley

Hallowe'en was just here and we celebrated with costumes, downtown parades, parties, candy and occasional tricks.

Before the freeway and suburban development, Hallowe'en celebrations weren't such subdued affairs. For one thing, ranches were so far apart that simply walking to trick-or-treat wasn't practical for most families.

Parties for kids were set up each year at the San Ramon Hall, on Old Crow Canyon Road (today's Deerwood Road), according to Barney Robles who lived in San Ramon as a boy. He remembers entering a darkened room upstairs and plunging his hands into something squishy made of peeled grapes, eggs and other slimy products. The children would be told the mix was brains. Very scary indeed!

Children wore costumes made by their mothers and put on make-up using whatever products were around. Lipstick and shoe polish were popular. It probably took a while to get rid of some of the "makeup" marks.

Robles recalls that children did go from house to house in Danville, where the homes were closer together. They brought pillow cases and collected immense amounts of sweets. He said people would come from as far as San Leandro to walk their kids through Danville.

In the San Ramon Valley, Hallowe'en celebrations for older kids were heavy on the tricks. Window-soaping and tomato-throwing were big in the 1930s and 1940s. There were vast tomato fields all over the valley and rotten tomatoes were readily available. The ranchers invited the kids to help themselves.

On Danville's Hartz Avenue, boys would rig up wooden supports on their cars, put boxes or baskets of tomatoes on the supports, and throw them at one another.



The Hikido tomato field opposite the intersection of Tassajara and Highland roads in 1938 was one of many in the area that offered rotten tomatoes to kids, making it easy for them to get ammunition for tomato fights on Hallowe'en.

"Hallowe'en is drawing near, better get lock and chain for your gates and other loose articles. Remember it's the small boy's night of joy."

—Daily Gazette, Martinez, Danville Notes, Oct. 28, 1924

Sometimes they would ride on the hood for better tossing visibility and nail their friends through their open windows.

Robles said that he and San Ramon friends Sam and Dan Sandoval drove a '32 Chrysler into town, calling themselves the Vigilantes. They were good throwers, better than the Danville boys. They kept an eye out for the constable and, when they saw him, could get away because their car could go fast.

The tricks were more than tomato-tossing, however. The high school boys would get outhouses, often from the Tassajara area, and put them in unusual places. One

Hallowe'en outhouse was set in front of the popular high school hang-out, Cook's Coffee Shop. Robles and five friends managed to put an outhouse on the roof of Randall's Drug Store (today's Meenar Music Club). He said there was a stairway up the back, but he couldn't recall quite how they managed it.

Another time an outhouse appeared in the courtyard of the high school at Hallowe'en. One group put a dead cat in the girls' restroom and watched them come out screaming.

The high school was a real mess on Nov. 1, according to several people. There were broken pumpkins, egg splashes and, of course, tomatoes everywhere.

As much fun as they had, the boys had to get up the next day to do farm chores. Barney Robles said they were just out for good clean—though messy—fun.

Sources: Special thanks to Pam Henry, Barney Robles and Winkie Camacho for sharing stories.

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories."

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

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



## Parent photographers

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

### SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAP-UP

by **Kaitly Ferretti**

#### Women's Varsity Volleyball

San Ramon's varsity women's volleyball was determined not to lose its first-place slot in league upon starting the game against Cal High on Tuesday, Oct. 28. After losing to the Grizzlies before, the Wolves brought the intensity and determination needed to beat them this time. The game was drawn out to seven matches of back and forth play. The Wolves dominated the first game 25-14, but the Grizzlies won the second game, 25-20. The third game went to SRVHS, 25-20, and the fourth went to Cal, 25-20. The final game came down to a kill, made by Leah Foltz assisted by Sami Buono, that resulted in a Wolves victory.

Brianna Vandersloot definitely showed her true talent during the Cal game. Vandersloot had 15 kills and 18 digs and she remained a vital part of SRVHS's win over the Grizzlies. Amy Mulligan also assisted the Wolves with 16 kills and 20 digs. Sammi Buono had 47 assists, 23 digs and five kills. Annie Begin had 15 kills and 21 digs.

The Wolves (9-2) are now a game ahead of Amador Valley (8-3), who are trailing closely behind SRVHS in EBAL rankings.

#### Football

San Ramon Valley and Foothill High School battled it out on the Falcon's field on Friday, Oct. 31, until the last second, literally. The Falcons held a 20-point lead for the majority of the game. Going into the fourth quarter, Foothill felt confident that they would keep their



CHIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSHOTO.COM

#### Mustangs face Spartans

Monte Vista High School running back Greg Johnson evades De La Salle defenders last Friday. The Spartans took the lead early but the Mustangs battled back for a final score of 45-35, De La Salle. Monte Vista is now No. 2 in league, while De La Salle held its top position.

lead. San Ramon had other ideas. In just over six minutes, the Wolves scored 21 straight points, taking the lead over Foothill, 35-34, with just 5:20 left in the game.

As hope for a San Ramon comeback victory rose, Foothill turned up their game. The Falcons answered back with an 11-play 80-yard touchdown drive, ending with Foothill senior Michael Young making it into the end zone. The score, now 40-35, Foothill, motivated San Ramon to fight hard. The Wolves gained possession of the ball at their 21 with 23 seconds left in the game. Wolves quarterback Joe Southwick kept the ball moving downfield by connecting

with Bryce Peterson for a gain of 25 yards, then again with Chris Bradley for a gain of 26 yards.

With three seconds to go, San Ramon was in view of the end zone. Southwick went for the score, but unfortunately his pass was intercepted making the final score 40-35, Foothill. San Ramon (6-2, 3-2) has two games left, against De La Salle and Monte Vista, in regular season play.

"These next two games are going to be very challenging, but we are ready and fired up to play," said senior defensive captain Garrison Goodman. ■

### MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WRAP-UP

by **Lizzy Hearn**

#### Water Polo

Both men's and women's water polo this season have dominated in their leagues. The Monte Vista women scored their way to the No. 1 seed of the North Coast Section last week, beating Amador Valley High and cross-town rivals, San Ramon Valley High.

Men's water polo beat Amador to become the No. 6 seed. Both teams had a bye this week but will play Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Monte Vista pool. Men play at 2:30 p.m.; women at 5 p.m.

#### Women's Volleyball

This past week our women's volleyball teams battled against the Livermore Cowboys and Carondelet High School. On Tuesday, Oct. 28, both junior varsity and varsity were victorious and dominated against Livermore. Though they failed to beat Carondelet on the 30th, both teams played their hearts out and

came close to winning. Because it was senior night, all the veteran players on varsity were honored. Their season did not end as a loss; they had one more chance for victory on Nov. 6, vs. the San Ramon Wolves.

#### Women's Tennis

The Monte Vista women's tennis team has been undefeated so far in league, and only has two more games left to keep its perfect score. Last Tuesday, they played Carondelet, a tough new addition to the East Bay Athletic League this year. The Mustangs dominated, beating Carondelet 7 matches to 2. Because of the weather, their game against Amador Valley was cancelled and postponed until the following week.

Top players included captains Elena Cadet and Sheena Chaudhuri, as well as Jackie Murray, Liz Roshal and Taylor Nielson. The top doubles this week were Amanda Kelley and Katie Turley. The Mustangs were to face their cross-town rivals, San Ramon Valley, on Nov. 4.

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Friday, Nov. 7

**Football**  
MVHS vs. Amador Valley  
(JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

#### Saturday, Nov. 8

**Cross Country**  
EBAL Championships

#### Friday, Nov. 14

**Football**  
SRVHS at MVHS  
(JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

#### Saturday, Nov. 15

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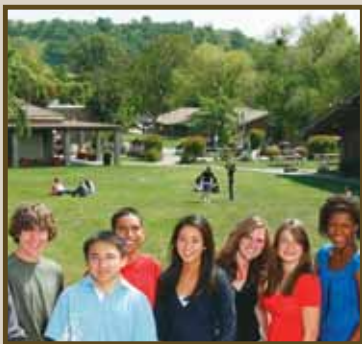
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#### Play must go on

Jackson Stenger plays in the pouring rain Nov. 1, showing the determination that helped the Mustang Alamo United U-12 Boys White Plus coached by David Langon defeat the Mustang Blasters coached by Manny Manela, 2-0.



#### Volleyball victory

The Dorris-Eaton School's eighth-grade girls volleyball team defeated Stanley Middle School of Lafayette at the Orinda Intermediate School Volleyball Tournament on Oct. 25. The two finalists were undefeated after competing against Joaquin Moraga, Willard, King, Piedmont and Albany. In the finals, Dorris-Eaton jumped ahead of Stanley early in the match and maintained the lead to win, 25-5.

"These girls know how to win games," said Dorris-Eaton Assistant Coach Ben Deane. Head coach Mary Dickens praised her team as "always working together and understanding true team play."

The Dorris-Eaton team included Sara Jensen, Brenna Deane, Nina Fairbairn, Emily Radler, Adelle Park, Sophia Takashima, Saki Kitadai, Elyse Kedzie and Rachel Tagle.

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\*Some ads require payment. Home Services and Mind & Body ads require contact with the customer service representative at 925-600-0840, Ext. 12.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

### 115 Announcements

**Adoption**  
Pregnant? Considering Adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3369. (Cal-SCAN)

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

### PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION

Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

**PARTY PALMIST**  
925-249-9154  
[www.partyalchemist.com](http://www.partyalchemist.com)

**Monthly Singles Parties**  
[www.PGuild.com](http://www.PGuild.com)  
925-888-4392

**Bay Area Singles Expo & Party**  
Meet 500 Singles at Singles Expo.

Donlon School Holiday Boutique  
Fibromyalgia/Stress/Pain BLR MFT

**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
Reverse Mortgage for Seniors. Convert home equity into income. Retain title and remain in home. Call: Harlan Anderson (925)705-5251 for details.

Stress/Pain/Fibromyalgia-BLR,MFT

### 120 Auctions

**Foreclosed Home Auction**  
Northern California. 1000 Homes Must Be Sold! Free Brochure: 1-800-470-9314. [www.USHomeAuction.com](http://www.USHomeAuction.com) REDC. (Cal-SCAN)

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!**  
Fast, Affordable & Accredited  
FREE Brochure. Call NOW!  
1-888-583-2101 <http://www.continenta-lacademy.com> (AAN CAN)



**Danville Boot Camp for Women**  
Discover YOUR Inner Athlete! Outdoor Exercise Class Women of all fitness levels. 1hr/day, 3,4,5 day/wk. 457-4587 ContraCostaBootCamp.com

**PALMISTRY CLASSES**  
[www.palmistryschool.com](http://www.palmistryschool.com),  
[www.partyalchemist.com](http://www.partyalchemist.com) 925 2499154

### 133 Music Lessons

**HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**  
Try Something New!  
**Call Bennetta Heaton**  
(925) 820-1169  
- located in Danville -

Music Lessons à " Register Now!!!

### 135 Group Activities

Blast From the Past SinglesDance  
CLUTTERLess (CL) Self Help Group  
FREE CROSSFIT CLASS

### 140 Lost & Found



**MISSING Brown Spotty Cat, Reward**  
Young neutered male Bengal. Looks like mini leopard! Skinny. Generous Reward. 650-529-0659.

**SOLD FOR SALE**

### 201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

**Donate Vehicle**  
Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupons, Your Choice. Noah's Arc, No Kill Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deduction. Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate Your Car**  
Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research and Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)



**Chevy W4500 2002 Box Truck**  
47K miles, A/C, 14'Box, excellent condition. Liquidating assets, anxious for cash sale. Call 408-313-6914 or 408-761-0783

Subaru 1992 Legacy wagon - \$1800

VW 2002 Eurovan - \$19995

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, November 8th, 8 - 2

East Bay, Auction - Estate Clean Out, Open Dates

Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

Pleasanton, 4684 Black Ave, Nov. 8, 8-1

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Royal Doulton figurine - \$50

### 220 Computers/Electronics

**A NEW COMPUTER NOW!**  
Brand Name

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

**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

No phone number in the ad? GO TO **fogster.com** for contact information



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

Maple Dining Table & Chairs - \$ 300

**245 Miscellaneous**

**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 - x300N. (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

Xmas Electric Train - \$115

Zebra FINCH - \$10.95



**KID STUFF**

**330 Child Care**

**Offered**

Danville Drop-In Care

Loving & Nurturing Child Care

**340 Child Care**

**Wanted**

**nanny wanted for twin females**  
Babysitter urgently needed for twin female kids, get back to me via my email : charlesquartz@yahoo.com

**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

No phone number in the ad? GO TO **fogster.com** for contact information

**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

**355 Items for Sale**

ENGLISH PRAM STYLE BUGGY

Little Girl's Dream Kitchen



**455 Personal Training**



**CROSSFIT SAN RAMON IS HERE!**

Forging Elite Fitness. THE principal strength and conditioning program for many armed forces. \$25/ First week of Unlimited Classes. Workouts of the Day, Classes, Open Gym CROSSFITSR.com 457-4587



**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@icselect.com or fax resume to (925)416 0105.

**550 Business**

**Opportunities**

**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)

**?? 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**

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/0s & 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**

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

**Earn Above Average \$\$\$**

Over 18? Available to travel? Fun Successful Business Group! No Experience Necessary. 2 wks Paid Training. Lodging, Transportation Provided. 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

**Exchange Coordinators**

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)

**Firefighter**

No experience needed. Training, travel, great pay/benefits/vacation & regular raises. H.S. grads ages 17-34. Call Mon-Fri. 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

**Get Crane 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)

**Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!**

California Army National Guard. No Experience. Will pay to train. High School Jr/ Sr & Grads/ Non- Grads/ GED. May qualify for \$20,000 BONUS. 1800GoGuard.com/careers (Cal-SCAN)

**Mechanics**

Up to \$20,000 bonus. Keep the Army National Guard Rolling. Fix Humvees, Strykers, etc. Expand your skills through career training. Be a soldier. 1-800-GO-GUARD.com/mechanic (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)



**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 #0B20349 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)

**Advertise Effectively**

Reach over 3 million Californians in 140 community newspapers. Cost \$1,550 for a 3.75"x2" display ad. Super value! Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SDAN.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/Sunrooms/Retractable Screens/Windows/Doors/ Garage Improvements - 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

**771 Painting/ Wallpaper**

**#1 JOE'S PAINTING & HANDYMAN**

Free Est / Reasonable Prices No Job Too Small! 925-200-7333 lic# 624542

**795 Tree Care**

**Colorado Mountain Ranch**

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

**PET OF THE WEEK**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**Maxine's got moxie**

"Okay ladies," Maxine said, "I don't care if you dress up or dress down. I just want you to get up, get dressed, and get on over to Valley Humane Society's ninth annual Animal Lover's Boutique." The event is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Road.

The boutique benefits the humane society's Just Like New fund, which provides medical care for sick and injured animals in the Tri-Valley. There will be unique animal-related gifts for the home and garden, whimsical ornaments, greeting cards, jewelry, and more. Maxine is hoping to find some earrings to match her pearl necklace!

The proceeds will also benefit Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's Cinderella fund. It's an opportunity to have fun and help needy animals at the same time.

Maxine (pet # 80407), a sweet 1-and-a-half-year-old female tabby, is available for adoption at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. She's friendly, cute, and a snazzy dresser!



**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.

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$1465.00

**805 Homes for Rent**

**Danville, 4 BR/2 BA**

Wonderful neighborhood, schools walking distance. Big open kitchen. Move in right away. 925 849-5911

**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**

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2 BA - \$759000

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 Foreclosure**  
40 acres \$29,900. Outstanding Views. Access to 6,000 acres BLM Rec Land. 300 days of sunshine. Call 1-866-696-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**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)

**Land Auction**

Bank ordered. 2000+ Properties. Land in 29 States. NO RESERVES. Multiple Lot Packs. Min Bids at \$100. Bid Online at: www.LandAuctionBid.com/2 (Cal-SCAN)

**Montana Land Bargains**

(A Safe Haven) 20 Acres w/ Road & 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)

**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)

**Northern CA Foreclosures**

Over 250 homes 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)

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2008

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 14	Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$1,164,000	Lowest sale reported: \$375,000	Lowest sale reported: \$184,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,917,500	Highest sale reported: \$1,000,000
Average sales reported: \$1,357,000	Average sales reported: \$871,357	Average sales reported: \$505,647

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2008

**Alamo**  
**2553 Roundhill Drive** Breuner Trust to C. & D. Braidman for \$1,164,000  
**2560 Royal Oaks Drive** Soba Trust to Oler Trust for \$1,550,000

**Danville**  
**266 Barrett Circle** Cooper Trust to A. Pons for \$779,000  
**191 Blackstone Drive** J. & A. Benson to D. Ni for \$801,000  
**2009 Colmar Street** KB Homes to J. & D. Cran for \$860,000  
**622 Doral Drive** F. Henson to Mosle Trust for \$630,000  
**9006 Falcon Street** JP Morgan Chase Bank to A. & U. Kamal for \$446,000  
**1398 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to M. & H. Dawud for \$1,093,000  
**346 Newcastle Lane** US Bank to Cheng Trust for \$886,500  
**1054 River Rock Lane** Ward Trust to K. Saporito for \$590,000  
**1135 River Rock Lane** Harborview Mortgage to S. & S. Lober for \$538,000

**20 Rockhaven Lane** Braddock & Logan to L. Myers for \$1,375,000  
**1105 San Ramon Valley Boulevard** J. Smith to R. & K. Trimble for \$375,000  
**210 Scotch Court** S. & C. Herzbrun to D. Harrelson for \$808,000  
**116 Victoria Place** Harris Trust to D. & L. MacFarlane for \$1,917,500  
**3827 Welshland Street** Shapell Industries to J. & B. Stout for \$1,100,000

**Walnut Creek**  
**1315 Alma Avenue #136** Bank of America to J. Brotherton for \$450,000  
**2125 Cactus Court #3** Hussey Trust to Sternberg Trust for \$400,000  
**1812 Cole Avenue #2** HSI Assets to D. Simon for \$184,000  
**950 Country Lane** S. Houston to A. & L. Nadalin for \$800,000  
**2563 Decca Lane** L. Perras to C. Tang for \$508,000  
**1358 East Las Juntas Way** Mimi Surf Trust to M. & S. Bertolozzi for \$290,000

**2732 Eccleston Avenue** Bank of New York to J. Kratter for \$480,000  
**1579 Gilboa Drive** B. & C. Threadgill to C. & S. Boome for \$512,000  
**1241 Homestead Avenue #222** K. Cole to R. Rodriguez for \$245,000  
**107 Marchbanks Court I.** Berry to K. & J. Cremolini for \$510,000  
**1021 Millbrook Court** R. & L. Blacker to K. & D. Sullivan for \$775,000  
**25 Oak Knoll Loop** Michele Trust to T. Bui for \$1,000,000  
**2592 Oak Road #255** A. Courtney to Micanek Trust for \$385,000  
**245 Sequoia Avenue** S. Pereira to M. Linden for \$811,000  
**1309 Skycrest Drive #1** Y. Gillard to Cederwall Trust for \$259,000  
**2001 Skycrest Drive #4** Lawyer Trust to E. Henchey for \$417,000  
**101 Ygnacio Court** GMAC Mortgage to T. & C. Sonoda for \$570,000

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### DANVILLE

**4 Bedrooms**  
**1220 Dutch Mill Drive** \$1,179,000  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4  
 Alain Pinel - Yasmine Austere 998-9747

**5 Bedrooms**  
**16 Casolyn Ranch Court** \$1,498,000  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 858-4198

### DUBLIN

**3 Bedrooms**  
**7463 Oxford Circle** \$400,000  
 Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 997-8267

**2 Bedrooms**  
**7340 Cronin Circle** \$363,500  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Mary Jane Deering 918-2425

### LIVERMORE

**4 Bedrooms**  
**2690 Tuscany Court** \$1,046,000  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 918-2912  
**1823 Vancouver Way** \$659,900  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 339-3077

### PLEASANTON

**3 Bedrooms**  
**447 Del Sol Avenue** \$849,900  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Tony Leavens 487-1427

**4 Bedrooms**  
**3907 Arrowwood Court** \$1,399,999  
 Sun 1-4:30 Hometown GMAC 640-1985  
**4914 Middleton Place** \$1,475,000  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential - Glna Piper 462-9175

**2474 Silver Oaks Lane** \$1,899,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Blaise Lofland 846-6500  
**6911 Corte Barcelona** \$775,000  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - George McKean 998-1798

**5 Bedrooms**  
**2100 Laguna Creek Lane** \$1,199,900  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 366-8275  
**1368 Royal Creek Court** \$1,288,888  
 Sun 1-4:30 Brigitte Huntemann - Keller Williams 260-2508

**6 Bedrooms**  
**9451 Blessing Drive** \$1,725,000  
 Sun 1-4 Sylvia Desin - Alain Pinel 413-1912

### SAN RAMON

**3 Bedrooms**  
**2401 Cuenca Drive** \$579,000  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential - Glna Piper 462-9175

**4 Bedrooms**  
**30 Pamplona Court** \$689,888  
 Sat/Sun 1-4:30 Brigitte Huntemann - Keller Williams 260-2508

**5 Bedrooms**  
**220 Dandelion Court** \$797,900  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential - Glna Piper 462-9175

# The Combs Team .com



Nancy P. Combs

Professionals You Can Count on!

Call Joe and Nancy  
**925-989-6086**

Visit [www.thecombsteam.com](http://www.thecombsteam.com)



Joe Combs

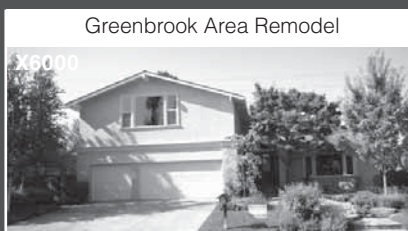
24 Hour Free Audio Tour (866) 374-0607



Diablo 1.64 Acres  
 X3000  
 Build your dream home on this amazing Diablo property \$949,000



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



Greenbrook Area Remodel  
 X6000  
 A perfect "10." 5 bedroom 2 bath remodel. 2,953 sq. ft. Stainless and granite kitchen, on .23 acres. Walk to Greenbrook School, backs Iron Horse Trail. \$1,199,000



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

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



## 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?"

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

Private Consultations Available Upon Request

Veronica Villano  
 925.925.0928  
[veronicavillano@hotmail.com](mailto:veronicavillano@hotmail.com)

**Financial Mechanics Group**  
 Short Sale and Loan Modification Specialists  
[www.financialmechanicsgroup.com](http://www.financialmechanicsgroup.com)

People & Properties | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**FMG**  
 1.866.608.4364

# Home Improvement & Services

## Aqua Clean Pool Service



**BBB**  
Start With Trust

*"We don't cut corners, we clean them"*

MasterCard  
VISA

Complete Service & Repairs  
Residential & Commercial  
**925-518-1718**



### Transform your bathroom before the holidays!

Visit **The Bath Studio** before you start your bathroom remodeling project. We offer a wide variety of products, design services, and prescreened contractors to implement your vision.

Our new **Fast Track Designer Bath** program offers a streamlined, semi-custom approach to achieving your new bathroom quickly and within your budget.

Need your new bathroom right now? Ask about our **10-Day Transformation!**

**THE BATH STUDIO**  
500 Bollinger Canyon Way  
San Ramon  
925-735-1400  
www.thebathstudio.com

### Voted Best General Contractor in Danville 2007



- Remodeling
- Kitchens
- Baths
- Additions



**SHAWN LOBER CONSTRUCTION**

Visit our Showroom  
Kitchens of Diablo  
680 San Ramon Valley Blvd Danville  
**(925) 838-4210**  
www.shawnlober.com

Lic.#322951

### The Best replacement roof for cedar shake



The lifelike beauty of cedar shake without the problems and maintenance. *Won't burn, break, crack, curl, rust, rot, warp, fade, freeze, peel, split, or blow off.*

**California's Best Roof 888-812-2161**  
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