

Lessons of being homeless

Tri-Valley man tries street life in San Francisco

> page 16

Vol. IV, Number 34 • December 26, 2008

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Volleyball victories

Wolves women win EBAL and North Coast Section

> page 14

Danville

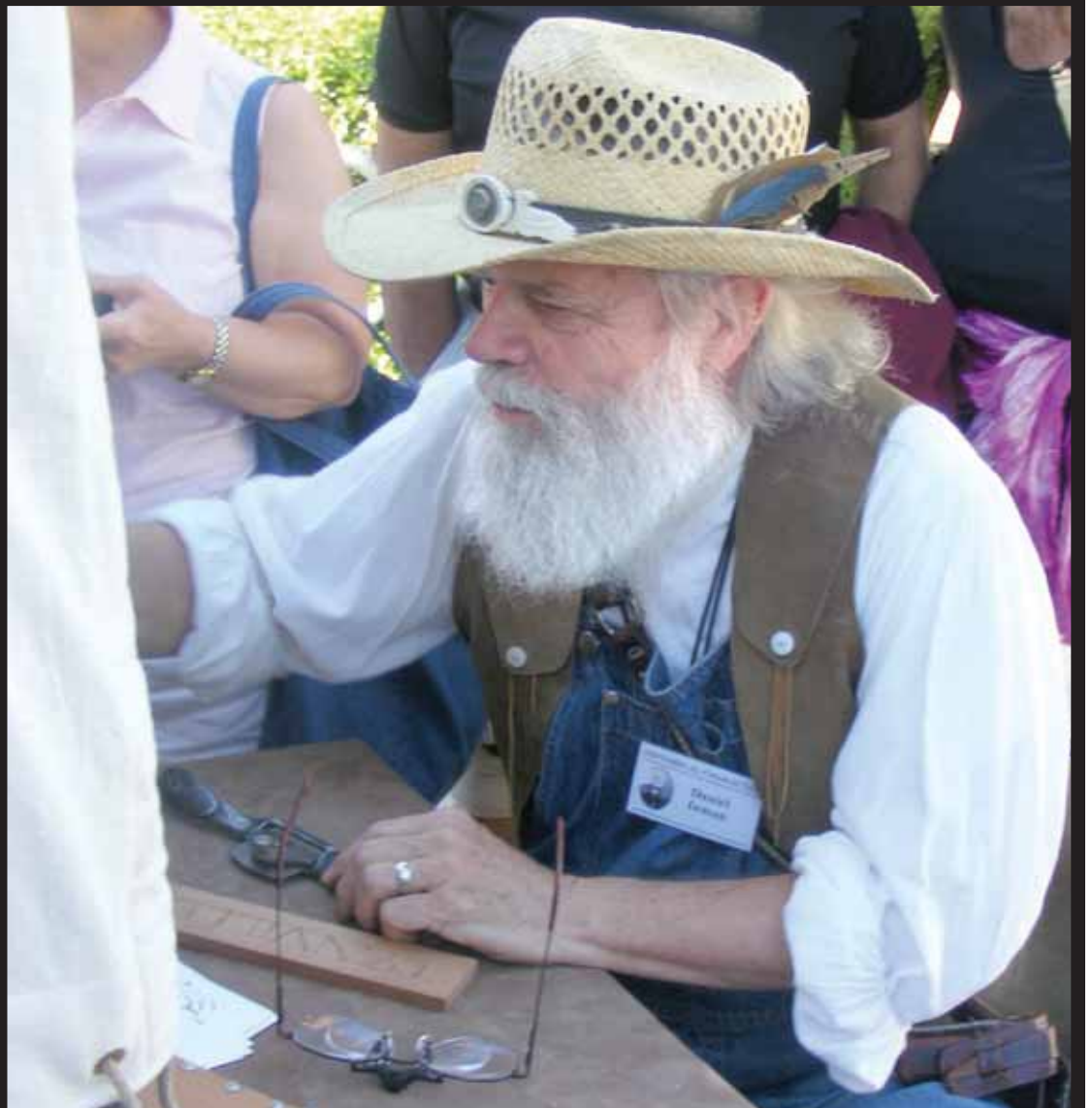
WEEKLY

Happy Hanukkah

Beth Chaim welcomes other faiths to share the holiday

> page 5

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



Goodbye to 2008

Looking back at Danville's sesquicentennial and other events great and small **PAGE 12**



GIVE THE GIFT OF GOLF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

ONLY
\$325
PER MONTH
(INDIVIDUAL PRICING)

Membership

INDIVIDUALS / FAMILIES / SENIORS

ONE TIME INITIATION FEE
MONTHLY DUES
UNLIMITED GREEN FEES
REDUCED GUEST FEES
RANGE BALLS
SHOP DISCOUNTS
CHARGING PRIVILEGES
AND MORE...

Sign Up
Now and Save
\$1000*

*Denotes savings on individual initiation fee with one-year contract.



THE BRIDGES

GOLF CLUB

9000 S. GALE RIDGE ROAD / SAN RAMON, CA 94582 / 925.735.4253
WWW.THEBRIDGESGOLF.COM

NEW YEARS EVE AT FAZ

SHRIMP BISQUE - PRAWN COCKTAIL
SALMON - SWORDFISH - MIXED GRILL
N.Y. - RACK OF LAMB - DOUBLE CUT
PORK CHOP - FETTUCINE MARCO POLO
WITH JUMBO PRAWNS - DAY BOAT
SCALLOP PASTA - LITTLE NECK CLAM
LINGUINE - HOUSE MADE RAVIOLI
DELECTIBLE HOLIDAY DESSERTS

FABULOUS
HOLIDAY A LA
CARTE MENU

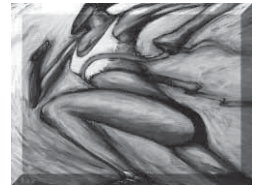


Don't Miss the fun!

600 hartz avenue, danville • 925 838 1320

HealthWise Fitness and Consulting, Inc.

- Are you Tired?
- Out of Shape?
- Are you ready to get the body you deserve?



In Home or Private Studio

Specializing in: weight loss, strength/
rehabilitation, sport-specific programs
and customized nutritional plans.

Phone: 925.930.4584 or Email: hwfitness@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.healthwisefit.com>

FDA APPROVED HOME LASER HAIR REMOVAL

With Silk'n™ Home Pulsed Light™

Why pay for multiple visits to the doctor?

AVAILABLE
NOW!

Safe and easy to use.
Simply push a button, and
the hair "flashes" away.



Silk'n™ achieves
long-term results
while offering
personal
convenience.



Low cost and effective, available only by physician prescription.
For more information about this exclusive promotion, contact:

CALIFORNIA FACE AND LASER INSTITUTE

San Ramon
5801 Norris Canyon Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone: (925) 830-9116

Palo Alto
1900 University Avenue, Suite 101, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: 650-494-1000

www.calface.com

Q: What was your most memorable New Year's?



Last year I got to fly back home on New Year's Eve. Literally, it turned to a New Year on the plane. I spent my New Year's 39,000 feet in the air! I was upgraded to first class because the plane was near empty.

Nevin Ryan
Navy officer



When I was in grade school we lived in Connecticut. One year we went to New York City to see a play on New Year's at Times Square. Right as we were leaving the theater, they were setting up for the big celebration and the city was very festive. That was exciting for a child.

Mallory Ryan
student at Vanderbilt University



It was the first year my wife and I were married. It was awhile ago but we were with family and it was exciting because there was newness to it and life ahead of us.

Jim Stilwell
pastor



We stayed up until midnight for the first time last year! We had a crab feast with the whole family. It was fun.

Alicia and Alex Davis
first- and second-graders



I went to San Francisco with friends. We were all sick with the flu but we went out to the bars anyway. We had so much fun, we had to ride BART back home. It was worth it.

Johnas DeLeon
currently unemployed

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

ABOUT THE COVER

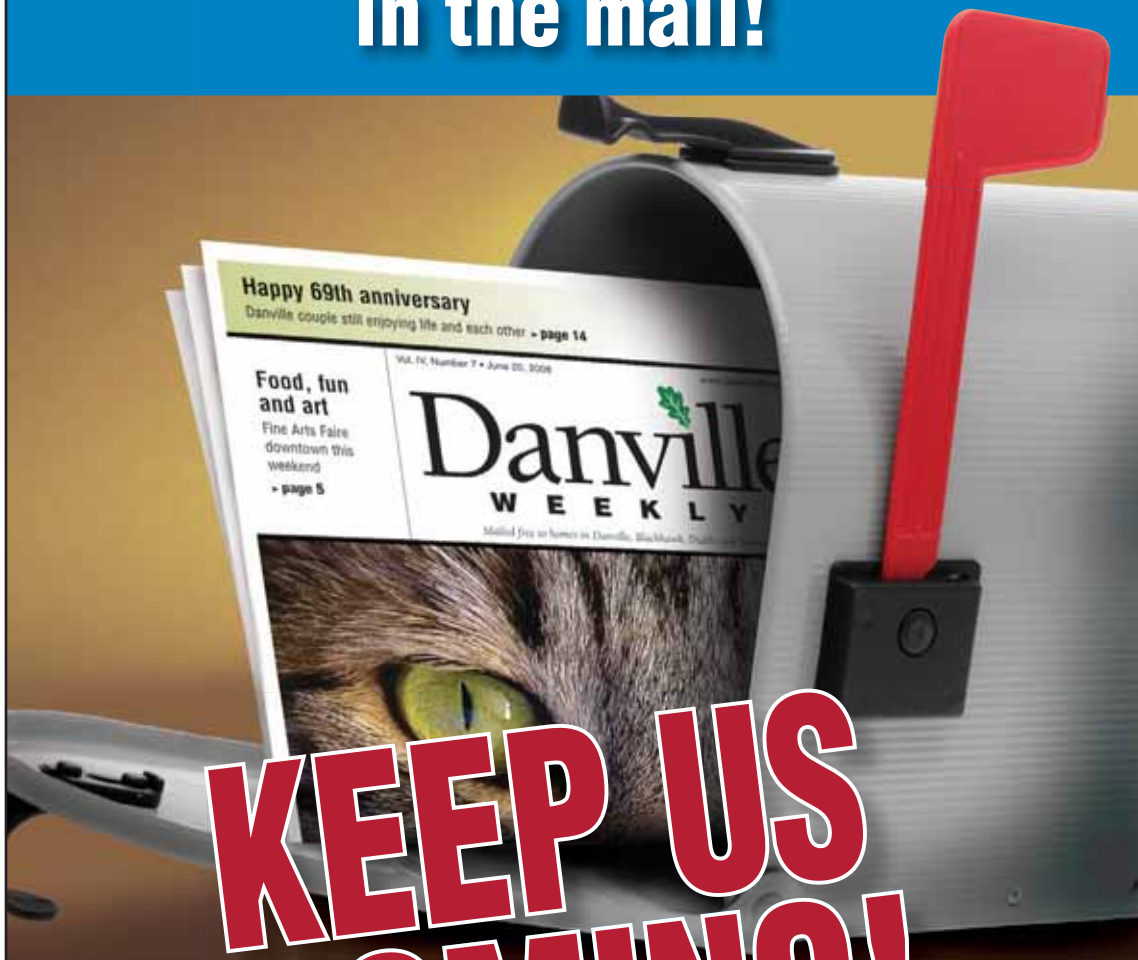
Some news stories during the last year included (clockwise from top left) the burning of the historic Humburg house in Alamo; the Hay Days and sesquicentennial celebration in Danville, with Geoff Bishop acting the part of Daniel Inman; Alamo resident Joan Buchanan being elected to the state Assembly; and the 25th annual Primo's Run for Education.

Vol. IV, Number 34

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Danville CA. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Danville Weekly, 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526. © 2008 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



YES, I want to continue receiving the Danville Weekly in the mail!



Dear Danville Weekly Reader:

If you enjoy receiving the Danville Weekly and want to continue receiving it, please support us by either becoming a paid subscriber in 2009 or by officially requesting the paper. With printing and distribution costs rising every year, readers can clearly help us qualify for lower postal rates simply by calling (925) 837-8300 or filling out the form online at www.DanvilleWeekly.com/request

Thank you for your ongoing support. And be sure to "think, shop and buy" locally this holiday season. Your dining and retail dollars are also so well spent right here at home!

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Gina Channell-Allen
Publisher



Keep receiving the
Danville Weekly
by going online at:
www.DanvilleWeekly.com/request

or call:
(925) 837-8300
and say, "Keep my
Danville Weekly
coming!"

Danville
WEEKLY

117-D Town & Country Drive
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 837-8300 Fax (925) 837-2278
DanvilleWeekly.com

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The real changes are yet to come. ”
Gary Black, school district Assistant Superintendent, Business, reporting to the trustees that he expects the state to withdraw funding for the district at the end of the year. See story, page 5.

DUI ‘Grinch’ steals Christmas

If you choose to drink and drive this holiday season, those flashing red lights in your rear-view mirror won't belong to a red-nosed reindeer but to a California Highway Patrol vehicle, says the CHP. Officers are out in force during the Christmas maximum enforcement period, which began at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24, and continues through midnight, Sunday, Dec. 28.

“Consider this a warning,” said Contra Costa area CHP Capt. Jim Cahoon. “We will be out there taking a zero tolerance approach and will arrest you if you are drinking and driving.”

CHP officers arrested 1,661 motorists statewide for driving under the influence during last year's Christmas period. During that same time period, 43 people died in the 4,613 collisions that occurred in California. Among those killed, 18 lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes.

The CHP will conduct a similar maximum enforcement effort during the New Year's holiday weekend, beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 31, and ending midnight, Sunday, Jan. 4.

McNerney gets Energy seat

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) has officially secured a seat on the powerful Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Energy and Commerce Committee has a broad issue portfolio, including both energy policy and commerce issues as well as healthcare and consumer affairs and protection.

“I'm anxious to delve into some of the committee's issues, including the development of a new national energy policy that focuses on the use and production of renewable energy and addressing the need for affordable and accessible healthcare for all Americans,” McNerney said.

As a member of the committee, McNerney

will be able to use his 20-plus years of professional experience with wind and other forms of sustainable energy. U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman (D., CA) will head the committee, and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton (R., TX) will serve as the ranking Republican member on the committee.

Energy and Commerce is the House's oldest standing committee and considered one of the most important. Throughout its history, it has produced many pieces of landmark legislation.

Commissioners appointed

At their Dec. 16, meeting, members of the Danville Town Council approved the appointments of four residents to serve on the Town Planning Commission. Appointed to serve the next four years were Lynn Overcashier, Robert Storer, Renee Morgan and Paul Radich. Tiffany Attwood was appointed as a commission alternate.

These appointees will join commissioners Bonnie Antoun, Robert Combs and Bob Nichols in overseeing various aspects of the development review process in the Town of Danville. The commission examines zoning ordinances, plans and capital improvements and then makes recommendations to the Town Council.

Little League delays late fees

Parents who haven't signed up their sluggers for Danville Little League will have a little extra time without paying late fees. In recognition of the current economic climate, the league's executive board has voted to delay late charges for signups until the start of 2009. Officials said late fees for ages 9-16 will begin Jan. 1; for ages 5-8 they will begin Jan. 15.

Learning never ends

A catalog with 80 winter and spring classes, events and activities for seniors will be mailed Jan. 5 by Emeritus College, a program of Diablo Valley College. For a free copy, visit emeritus@dvc.edu or call 906-9105. Its motto is: “No tests, no stress, no homework, no kidding.”



Did alcohol ruin another Holiday?
 Is your life spiraling out of control and your family breaking apart? There's HELP for you and your family at R-Quest.

R-Quest has been helping Tri-Valley families for over 10 years.

Simply call or email the office for information. Your family is worth it.

Office 925 426-0501 Email info@rquest.org web site www.rquest.org

*Elegant and Relaxing
 Personalized Professional
 Nail Care*



Pleasant Hill location

*Bollinger
 Nail Salon*

BOLLINGER NAIL SALON LOCATIONS

San Ramon - Bollinger Canyon Road
 18080 San Ramon Valley Blvd . . . (925) 830-9700

San Ramon - Crow Canyon Road
 2441 San Ramon Valley Blvd (925) 838-6300

Pleasant Hill
 1420 Contra Costa Blvd (925) 680 8600

Walnut Creek
 1661 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (925) 938-2500

*Host a Party—For birthdays, bridal showers
 or friends who want to have a unique
 and fun get together, arrange a private
 party at Bollinger Nail Salon.*

www.Bollingernailsalon.com

**Law Offices of Terence Daniel Doyle
 The Family Law Group**

**Family Law
 Family Law Mediation
 Trusts and Estates
 Wealth Management**

Complimentary Initial Consultation

Terence Daniel Doyle
 David J. Golde
 Richard D. Grossman
 Virginia L. Ekelund
 Daniel T. Quane

www.FamilyTrustsandEstates.com

School district revs up for the budget crunch

Staff expects deficit to be \$2.1 million

by Harry Stoll

Those involved in education are on edge about forthcoming funding shortages, judging by reactions to several apparently disparate matters at the Dec. 9 school board meeting.

"We're shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic," said Board President Bill Clarkson, after Assistant Superintendent, Business, Gary Black gave the board a columns-and-rows report.

"All funds are expected to have positive balances at year's end," Black concluded, but added that that conclusion would be wrong as he expects the state to withdraw considerable funding at the end of the year, given the sorry state of the state budget.

"The real changes are yet to come," said Black; he told the board he expects this year's deficit to be \$2.1 million.

To save \$12,000 this year, Superintendent Steven Enoch asked and received board approval

to terminate the contract of lobbyist School Services of California, even though it does a good job. "This is the first of many cuts," said Enoch.

Unexpected district costs could come from parents moving their children from private to public schools during tough times, said Trustee Greg Marvel, after a presentation of planning for an increase of students by Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Christine Williams.

Teacher Jenyth Utchen advocated delaying new homework guidelines until the start of the new academic year and said teachers should concentrate on passing the parcel measure.

Board Member Rachel Hurd later said such actions to campaign for the parcel tax must be done outside of school hours.

The budget of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is not affected by the board's approval of spending \$17.3 million for a new

► Continued on page 7

Blackhawk debates parking restriction

Parents picking up school kids fight fine increase

by Geoff Gillette

The ongoing discussion over raising fines for parking violations near the East Gate of Blackhawk brought a number of residents out to debate the issue at their most recent Homeowners Association meeting.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, more than 60 residents turned out to listen to the HOA board discuss a proposal to increase fines from the current \$20 to \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a second offense, and \$250 for a third offense.

The issue stems from an ongoing problem with picking up and dropping off students at Tassajara Hills Elementary School. Each day, long lines of cars form all the way out onto Camino Ramon and parents can be stuck in line for upwards of 20 minutes. So sev-



Blackhawk resident Scott Rindner



Blackhawk resident Constance Smith

eral Blackhawk parents have started parking just inside the East Gate on Blackhawk Drive near an area known by residents as "the grassy knoll."

Each day, dozens of students walk back through the East Gate and up to waiting parents. In response to complaints, the HOA is looking to make the fines untenable enough to stop the practice, which has caused a strong backlash from those parents.

Board members opened up the floor to discussion and it became obvious early on that there were factions both pro and con the fine increases. Those in favor shared their frustrations with the cars parking in driveways, lawns and landscaping being trampled, and children walk-

► Continued on page 7



PHOTOS BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Martin Fishman (right) the outgoing president of Beth Chaim's board of directors, lights the first candle on the Menorah with incoming president Ralph Bleier.

Many faiths share in Hanukkah

Hundreds enjoy latkes, wine tasting, dancing and games

by Geoff Gillette

The members of the Beth Chaim congregation gathered Sunday to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah, but they didn't come alone. Celebrating their second year in their new home just off Camino Tassajara, the synagogue played host to six other faiths.

Rabbi Dan Goldblat addressed the crowd of 250 people who braved the rainy weather to take part in the lighting of the first candle of the Menorah, symbolizing the first of the eight nights of Hanukkah. Goldblat referred to the spirit of Hanukkah as the longest running fight for religious freedom.

Goldblat and Rabbi Chaya Gusfield welcomed those of the congregation as well as those of other faiths who chose to attend.

"We have invited many of other faiths to



After the lighting of the menorah, (l-r) Josh Barish, 16; Michael Frank, 16; and Sam Barish, 12, spin the dreidel. The teens played the traditional game wagering with chocolate coins.

► Continued on page 8



Christmas winners

Norma Jean Bordalampe (left) and Leila Rasmussen choose their prizes from a gift table at the annual Danville Senior Holiday Luncheon after having their numbers among those pulled at a drawing. The festive luncheon was held at the Veterans Memorial Building on Hartz Avenue for 125 seniors, with a catered lunch and entertainment.

Questions arise over sweeping contract

Company claims errors made in review process

by Geoff Gillette

Discussions over a contract for street sweeping services in Danville ran into some snags when one of the bidders for the work claimed their application did not receive an accurate review.

Joe Vella, vice president of Stockton-based Contract Sweeping, questioned the process of reviewing bids for the work in Danville, at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Town Council. He said he did not understand why they were not awarded the work despite having the low bid.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said in the case of professional services contracts they do not have to take the low bidder. Instead, depending on the type of contract, the town will use a combination of the price along with a technical evaluation of the bidder.

Vella, along with Contract Sweeping's general manager Bob Wittekind, complained that their bid for the street sweeping was \$5,000 a year lower than the company chosen for the work. "Over five years that's \$25,000. I'm sure the Town of Danville could use the money," Wittekind said.

Both men pointed to errors in the technical evaluation that caused their scores to be lower. Wittekind asked the council to put off voting on the contract until they could look into the issue. "We'd just like you to wait and evaluate. We don't feel it was an impartial evaluation. We do feel it's imperative for the city to look at this on a closer basis."

Councilman Newell Arnerich called on the duo to provide direct examples of mistakes made in the evaluation.

Vella said some of the errors were: an incorrect number of staff

for the company; the fact that their employees did indeed have background checks; participation in a state safety program.

Vella also pointed out that they lost points in the scoring because their company name had changed. "It says we've only been in business five years. We've been in business 50 years," he said. The confusion stemmed from the fact that Contract Services is a new company under the umbrella of San Jose-based Universal Sweeping.

Arnerich continued to question the two men regarding perceived errors before stating that even with additional points from the changed answers they would still be below the score of the vendor chosen.

Mayor Candace Andersen expressed concern over the seeming discrepancies in the evaluation. She said any time public funds are being used there can be no appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest.

Councilman Mike Shimansky asked to hear from town staff on the issue.

Town Building and Streets Supervisor Jim Parke said that he and two other staff members, each with more than a decade of experience working for the town, evaluated the bids and found in favor of Universal Building Services, the vendor they have been using for the past 10 years.

"We've been working with the contractor now for 10 years and it's one of the better contracts we've had," Parke said. "To the best of our ability I felt we were fair."

Despite her misgivings, Andersen said she supported the staff's recommendation. After further discussion, the issue was moved and unanimously approved by the council. ■

KIRV'S after xmas sale

ALL CLOTHING 20% OFF STORE-WIDE & 20% OFF ALL SNOW HARD AND SOFT GOODS

from **12.26-12.31**

KIRV
HIDE CULTURE

740 Camino Ramon, Danville Ca 94526 (925) 8387873 www.krv.com

NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL OFFER
NO ENROLLMENT FEE + 20% OFF MONTHLY DUES
No Long Term Contracts - Class Passes Available

Where exercise is Fun!!
2 Clubs - Over 80 Classes per week

Ball Pilates Yoga Dance Attack
Cycle Circuit Fit Mix Boot Camp
Pilates ZUMBA Step Spinning
Body Sculpting KICKBOXING

#1 in Group Exercise for all ages & fitness levels

childcare showers/lockers personal trainers weightloss programs full service fitness club

Kathy's ladies healthclub
san ramon pleasanton
www.kathyshealthclub.com 855-3855 426-0105

Offer ends 1/15/09

Blackhawk

► Continued from page 5

ing in the busy street.

Scott Rindner, who lives on Blackhawk Drive, complained of the number of vehicles infringing on his property. "People park in our driveways and make U-turns on our property. I think we all agree that that's pretty rude," he commented.

Rindner said that isn't the worst of it. He spoke of having to contact police when a child was not picked up after school but left out on the street. He also expressed his anger over an incident where his wife was struck by another parent. "My wife Lynette was taking a license plate down and a woman came up and hit her in the chest," he stated.

Lynette Rindner said she was upset over the damage done to their lawn and landscaping as well as numerous broken sprinkler heads. "We had a \$4,000 water bill because of all the broken sprinkler heads." In addition she pointed to the danger of having children walking up the busy street, where there are no sidewalks. "Safety is pick up your children and put them in your car. That's safe."

Constance Smith, one of the group of parents opposed to increasing the fines, said she believes that the children are supervised and that safety is a concern for them. "We try to monitor the kids. And we try to keep them out of the roadway," she said. "I haven't seen anyone breaking sprinkler heads."

Smith contended that a main part of the push for these fines is coming from residents who live very near the East Gate and don't like the increased activity of the parents waiting at the Grassy Knoll. "I'm sorry your parcel is on a corner and you're bummed." She suggested that both sides take a fresh look at the problem and try to work together to resolve the issue.

Resident Steve Caria advocated finding middle ground as well. "We need the people to work together," he said. "When I was a kid I walked home from school and didn't need a police officer to monitor me."

He went on to say that he thinks the answer lies with the school dis-



Lt. Alan (AJ) Johnson, head of Blackhawk Police Services, talks to residents at the Homeowners Association meeting about the updated fine structure for parking near the grassy knoll. Johnson said the layout of the entrance area creates a hazard for children walking in the street and being picked up by parents.

"I was glad to see there was passion on both sides and I felt they both expressed themselves well."

—Mark Goldberg
Blackhawk Community Manager

trict. "If you have to wait 45 minutes then you have to wait 45 minutes and that's a school district problem."

Members of the HOA board had been planning to issue a ruling on the fines that night but instead chose to hold off until their Jan. 13 meeting in order to give residents more time to work toward a resolution.

Community Manager Mark Goldberg said it was exciting to see such a big turnout and all of the opinions expressed.

In other business, the board established a process to appoint a new member to fill a term expiring in December 2010, formerly held by newly elected Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan. The process includes an optional question-and-answer session with the superintendent and cabinet, an application screening by a two-member board committee, and a board meeting for public interviews of candidates. Applications are due by Jan. 5 and are available at the district office and at www.srvusd.net. To avoid a costly special election, the appointment must be made in January.

Also, at Clarkson's suggestion, board meetings will soon start at 7 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. and cannot go beyond 10 p.m. except by a unanimous vote of the board. A policy establishing the new hours must be voted on, probably at the next meeting. ■

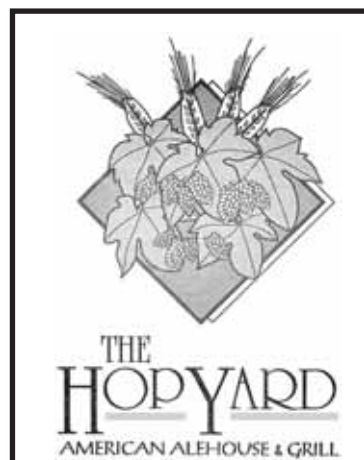
School district

► Continued from page 5

gym for San Ramon Valley High School and a multi-purpose building for Twin Creeks Elementary School, Trustee Greg Marvel pointed out. Funds are from the sale of bonds, as approved by Measure A, that are repaid from a special levy on property tax bills, he explained. The bond money can be used only for new construction and modernization.

Underscoring funding concerns, three board members—Paul Gardner, Marvel and Hurd—wanted to be on the board's finance committee. Hurd and Marvel were selected by a blind drawing. Afterward both emphasized that this committee is especially important in view of the funding crisis.

"I think the board was pleasantly surprised at how much interest there was. Not just in talking about it, but in coming together to find a solution." He added, "I was glad to see there was passion on both sides and I felt they both expressed themselves well." ■



Come for the Beer
Come back for the Food

30 BEERS ON TAP
Holiday beers are here!



San Ramon
(925) 277-9600

470 Market Place

www.hopyard.com

NORCAL Weight Loss Center

Lose weight...and keep it off!

- A Variety of Healthy Diet Programs
- Staffed by Professional Doctors & Nurses
- Lunch, Evening & Saturday Appointment Available
- Non-Medication Programs Available
- Latest FDA Approved Medications



Shauntrell lost weight on our program and you can too!

Also Offering Botox® / Restylane® Treatments

Dr. David Melamed, MD
Dermatologist
925-846-5614



Unretouched clinical photo taken while frowning before and 14 days after treatment with Botox® Cosmetic

NEW Botox® Service
for underarm perspiration problems!

\$75 OFF
Botox® Treatment
plus Free Consultation to new clients only
Not valid with other offers. Expires 12-31-08

FREE CONSULTATION
New clients only

Pleasanton
374 St. Mary St.
925 846-5614

San Ramon
2701 Crow Canyon Blvd.
925 837-6400

Valley Montessori S C H O O L

"An Education for Life"

A supportive environment designed to develop academic, personal and social potential with an integrated curriculum inspiring creativity, natural curiosity and a love of learning.

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 13th 9:30am

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Wednesday, January 14th	7pm	3 years-5 years
Thursday, January 15th	7pm	Grades 1-3
Tuesday, January 20th	7pm	Grades 4-5
Thursday, January 22nd	7pm	Grades 6-8
Tuesday, January 27th	7pm	18 months- 3 years
Thursday, January 29th	5pm	Kindergarten

Toddler • Primary • Elementary • Middle School
Serving Tri-Valley families for over 30 years

1273 N. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA
(925) 455-8021

www.valleymontessorischool.com

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) & the American Montessori Society (AMS)

**VOTE NO ON
INCORPORATION!**

ALAMO SPOTLIGHT
YOUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE
www.AlamoSpotlight.com

WE **R** ALAMO

**Help support our fight
against incorporation!**
Volunteers and/or Donations Welcome!

Email: focus@alamospotlight.com
Phone: (925) 820-8158
FPPC 1313955



Representatives (l-r) of the Baha'i Faith, Christian Science Church, Islamic Center, MA Center of San Ramon, Peace Lutheran and Danville Congregational Church all take part in Beth Chaim's Hanukkah celebration.

Hanukkah

► Continued from page 5

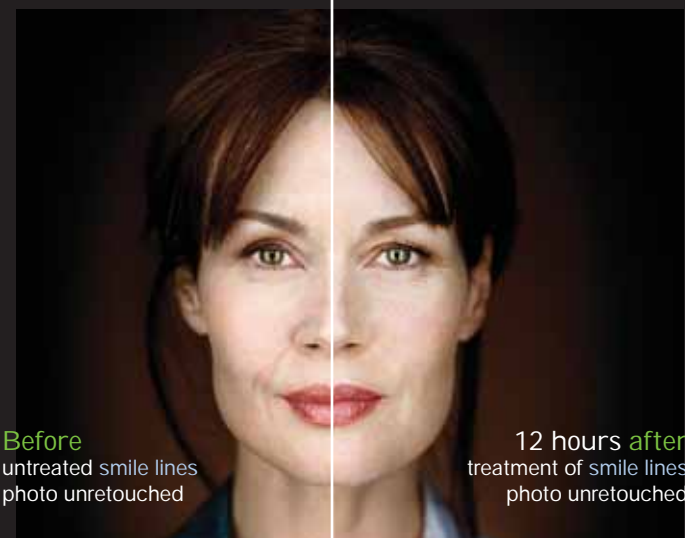
Goldblat explained, "and each faith community will have its own menorah."

Six other faith communities attended the celebration including the Baha'i Faith, Peace Lutheran Church, Danville Congregational Church, the Islamic Center, the MA Center of San Ramon and the Christian Science Church. Representatives from each gave a brief blessing to the packed room before using the center, or Shamash, candle to light the first of the eight Hanukkah candles.

After the lighting, those in attendance ate latkes, tasted wine or danced to traditional music. Some of the younger congregants gathered on the floor to spin the dreidel, playing the centuries old game and wagering for chocolate coins. ■



Rabbi Dan Goldblat sings along with Mikel Estrin, Achi Ben Shalom and Jan Padover at the interfaith Hanukkah celebration at Beth Chaim Synagogue.



Before
untreated smile lines
photo unretouched

12 hours after
treatment of smile lines
photo unretouched

Just in time for the Holidays.

Are you ready to look as young as you feel?

Introducing EVOLENCE®: the natural collagen dermal filler that delivers immediate, natural-looking results that last.

EVOLENCE® is indicated for the correction of moderate-to-deep facial wrinkles and folds, such as nasolabial folds. EVOLENCE® should be injected into the mid-to-deep dermis. Possible side effects of EVOLENCE are usually injection-site related and includes mild swelling, redness, and pain. Other rare side effects include the development of small areas of firmness under the skin at the treated sites that may be noticed when the areas are pressed upon. For more information, please contact us at 1.800.EVOLENCE (1.800.386.5362).

OrthoNeutrogena division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
© OrthoNeutrogena 2008 EVO-US-08-0028

EVOLENCE®
a naturally younger-looking you
www.evotence.com

To schedule your in-depth EVOLENCE® consultation, please contact your STAR™-trained aesthetic professional:

Elliott B. Lavey, MD
Board Certified: American Board of Plastic Surgery
Phone: 925-820-3633

Location: 913 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
Suite 288, Danville, CA 94526

TAKE US ALONG



Vacation celebrations

Janet and Matt Dowling read their Weekly while at Waikiki Beach for Halloween celebrations in 2007.



Weather doesn't stop the fun

Steve Mick and Alicia Watson of Alamo, and Jill and Bob Brennan of Danville pose in front of the Benedictine Abbey in Melk, Austria, with the Weekly. It was rather damp that day.

Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Our furry little houseguest

You know the cat that was killed by curiosity? I'm afraid this might be the fate of my daughter's cat, Misty.

Zoe and Misty arrived Friday night to stay with us for Christmas. Since then Misty has peeked into and sniffed with fascination at every nook and cranny in our house, sometimes emerging with dust on her whiskers (guess we're not too good about cleaning those nooks and crannies).

Misty is a long-haired, striped cat, 3 years old, with big green eyes straight out of a Keane painting. Zoe found her at the San Diego SPCA where she also volunteered as a cat socializer. Misty is a strictly indoor cat, and seems content with apartment living so long as the apartment has a patio with a glass sliding door so she has an uninterrupted view of the world of swaying trees and chirping birds. Her first night in their new apartment in Campbell last summer she was a bit freaked out, probably by the smells of fresh paint and cleaning solutions. She took refuge in the fireplace and emerged sans stripes, totally charcoal toned.

At our house, Misty has shown incredible patience, as one must if one is intent on investigating every inch of each room. And she seems equally interested in everything. Wow! A table leg. Must sniff it, check out the bottom, run eyes up the leg—the leg ends at the big flat table. How about that?!

The first morning they arrived, Zoe diligently followed Misty around on her explorations, fearful Misty might suddenly engage in some destruction behavior such as scratching our newly upholstered couch, or relieving herself in some totally unacceptable spot (such as our newly upholstered couch). Misty was temporarily nonplussed by what happened when she jumped onto the piano keys but quickly recovered.

Misty seems to have found our house to her liking. She slept soundly the first night on the pillow next to Zoe, and is eating and using her Port-a-Potty brought from her home and placed in the closet. Once she disappeared for a short time, but Zoe found her sitting in the empty—although wet—bathtub. She doesn't have the usual cat distaste for large bodies of water. She used to sit on the edge of the tub while Zoe took a bath but then once she jumped in so this is no longer allowed. She jumps onto the bathroom sink regularly to watch Zoe brush her teeth, etc., so I was happy to hear that she never jumps on the kitchen counter.

Jim and I knew we'd love hav-

ing Misty here. Our only reservation was the feline member of our family: Bob. Bob is also a long-haired cat, black with little tufts of gray at the ears. He's an indoor-outdoor cat—outdoors in the nice weather, but more indoors these days. He sleeps in his cozy bed in the garage most nights. His favorite spot on winter days is on top of the dining room heater vent.

Bob was in the back yard Saturday morning when Misty came to check out the downstairs. When she got to the sliding glass door in the family room, there was Bob, waiting to come in. They looked at each in amazement for a long time, frozen. Finally Zoe picked up Misty and sat down in the middle of the room.

Bob approached slowly, taking two steps forward, one back, two forward. They were five feet apart. She hissed. Bob jumped, and Zoe returned Misty to the bedroom. For the rest of the day, Bob was a downstairs cat and Misty was a

bedroom-upstairs cat. Bob tried to relax; he watched the football game with us in his usual spot in the family room but kept giving suspicious glances toward the doorway.

Sunday night saw Bob in the garage again, going to bed early. Misty again had hissed at him. Misty wandered around all evening, fearless and funny. She'd never been on stairs before coming to our house and seemed to think they were some kind of a kitty climbing structure for her to tumble and roll on.

Misty is returning to her Campbell home Christmas Eve. Then we hope Bob will join our family in front of the tree for our holiday festivities. His present will be seeing the end of his unwanted house guest. Unless of course they suddenly become best friends between now and then.

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

French Café & Bakery

Join us for breakfast on New Year's Eve, serving 7:30 - 10:00. Why not order some fancy desserts or croissant sandwiches for your party?

Serving fair trade coffee



Voted Best
French Restaurant
2 years!



www.pascalcafe.com

Monday-Saturday 6:00-3:00 p.m. ~ Sunday 7:00-3:00 p.m.
155 Railroad Ave., Danville ~ 925.838.7349

New Luxury Baths

BATH & KITCHEN SHOWROOM



CONVENIENT INSTANT
FINANCING
NO INTEREST AND
NO PAYMENTS FOR
12 MONTHS*

13 E Airway Blvd
Livermore
925 443-2284
NewLuxuryBaths.com

Plumbing • Lighting • Hardware

Showroom Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-4



Compassionate therapy
for change, helping
you move from merely
surviving to thriving.

DR. SARA DENMAN

Licensed Psychologist | PSY19808

Areas of Dr. Denman's expertise include, but are not limited to:
parenting challenges, eating issues, substance abuse,
anxiety, depression, past and present trauma, life changes,
and all forms of PTSD including Veterans.

145 East Prospect Ave Ste 218 | Danville | 925-648-4941

BOX YOUR WAY INTO A MILLION DOLLAR BODY!



- Heavy Bags
- Jump Rope
- Regulation Boxing Ring
- Punching & Counter Punching
- Phenomenal Abs workout
- Mitt Work
- Kettlebells
- Shadow Boxing

Get into the best shape of your life with our Executive Boxing Class.

Boxing is not only fun, but as a workout is the best cardiovascular exercise. You will train with the intensity of a boxer, without the hurt.

There is absolutely no other workout like this! No contact required.

Offered on a monthly basis.
Class size is limited, so sign-up now!



Ultimate Fitness
Academy

925-867-3488

3120-A Crow Canyon Road
UltimateFitnessAcademy.net



HEAVEN



AVAILABLE IN ONE - HOUR SLICES

Massage Envy

Massage Envy's professional therapists will help you feel rejuvenated when it's most convenient for you. A soothing one-hour session is only \$49 for first-time guests. And Massage Envy is open weeknights and weekends to accommodate your busy schedule. So whether you want to unwind after work or enjoy a soothing Sunday afternoon, you can always find Heaven, at Massage Envy.

\$49*
Introductory 1-Hour
Massage Session

San Ramon
3191 Crow Canyon Pl., #K
in Crow Canyon Commons
925-866-3838

Walnut Creek
1815 Ygnacio Valley Rd.
across from Heather Farms
925-478-3838

Convenient Hours Mon-Fri 8 am-9 pm | Sat 8 am-8 pm | Sun 10 am-6 pm | MassageEnvy.com
* Valid for first one hour session which consists of 50 minute massage and time for consultation and dressing. © 2008 Massage Envy Limited, LLC.

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

New Year, new laws

At last our laws are beginning to catch up to our high tech culture. Although using hand-held cell phones while driving has been against the law in California since July, it was obvious that other activities such as text messaging and operating Global Positioning Systems are easily as dangerous if not more so.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, it is illegal to write, send or read text messages or e-mail while driving a motor vehicle. This was already the law for drivers under the age of 18 but it is now being expanded to all drivers. We don't understand why an age limit was ever put on this law but perhaps text messaging was seen as a phenomenon limited to the high school age and younger. Even if this had once been the case, teens who began driving and text messaging are older now and probably kept their texting habits. Also, children and parents today keep in touch via text messages. Even for many adults, it seems texting is becoming the communication style of choice.

Another sign of the times legislates the mounting of Global Positioning Systems in cars. This new law allows portable devices to be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield on the driver's side of a vehicle or in a 5-inch square in the lower corner of the passenger side. These are the only two legal spots on the windshield where a GPS can be mounted after Jan. 1. The devices must be mounted outside of the area where an airbag would open in case of an accident.

An additional new law that we strongly support gives special parking privileges to veterans identified by their license plates as Pearl Harbor Survivors, former American Prisoners of War, and recipients of the Legion of Valor, Congressional Medal of Honor or Purple Heart. When approved by local authorities, they will be able to park their vehicles without charge in any metered parking space. It is estimated that there are fewer than 10,000 license plates in California that would be subject to the bill's provisions. Thus, it shouldn't cause any disruption to parking patterns, and is a nice way to show support for their distinguished service to our country.

YOUR TURN

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

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or mail to 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Being a town would prevent change

Dear Editor:

I don't want Alamo to change—I want Alamo to keep its semi-rural character. Looking around our community today, although I see change by degree, I think we Alamo citizens have done a pretty good job of advocating with Contra Costa County to keep Alamo free of dramatic change.

But we can't keep the county from changing, and we haven't been able to stop the larger economy from shrinking. Looking forward from the county's newly disclosed \$1.7 billion unfunded liability for employee benefits, its past three-year history of cutting Sheriff's Department services, its need for further service cuts and new revenue-generating development in the unincorporated areas, and its burden (and burden rate) of thousands of employees, I believe Alamo must become its own town to survive fiscally.

The Town of Alamo would contract for most workers and eliminate crippling employee benefit costs, realize all revenues from property tax increases on Alamo's older homes protected by Proposition 13, and write its own General Plan to prevent the freeway-accommodating widening of Alamo roads and intersections and the potential for rezoning to higher housing densities.

To prevent dramatic change to Alamo, we need to incorporate.

Bruce Campbell

(Alamo homeowner for 25 years)

Turning on red

Dear Editor:

Re the "No Turn on Red" Alamo traffic restriction: Alamo residents who live on the west side of Danville Boulevard with access from Stone Valley Road West are happy to have the new "No Turn on Red" restriction on Danville Boulevard. Cars coming from the south on Danville Boulevard planning to turn right/east onto Stone Valley Road often would cruise through the intersection against the red light, directly in front of us who had waited for our green light to get through the intersection. Because of how the intersection was re-configured some years ago, the two cars often were trying to be in the same lane at once, one to move right to access I-680 south and the other to move left to continue on Stone Valley Road.

When Alamo Plaza was expanded years ago and that intersection was formed, there was a traffic sign at that southeast corner of Danville Boulevard for those cars (northbound on Danville Boulevard, turning right onto Stone Valley Road) to "Yield to Traffic when Signal is Red." It was effective in smoothing traffic flow. When the "porkchop" configuration was

formed at the intersection, that sign was removed. It caused a confrontational situation having two cars claiming the same position at the same time: one through a red light and one through a green light.

Since the "No Turn on Red" sign has been installed, the situation is good. However, there is no need for the traffic on Danville Boulevard (northbound, turning right) to wait during the time traffic moves east on Stone Valley Road. Pedestrians are barred from crossing then. Pedestrians may only cross with the westbound Stone Valley Road traffic. Limiting the sign to a "Yield to Traffic when Signal is Red" may be a preferable option to the "No Turn on Red."

The other restriction sign is helpful, at the northeast corner of Danville Boulevard. In the past I have had cars which cruised through the red signal refuse to let me move into the right lane to turn into the veterinary/dental office building lot next to the Shell station.

By the way, residents of a City of Alamo would have solved this situation a long time ago—right here in Alamo.

Margaret Elliott, Alamo

NO on incorporation

Dear Editor:

Would any intelligent, successful business person purchase a business based on 2-year-old financials? Financials accumulated at the height of a business boom? And financials not compiled by a reputable accounting firm with years of experience but compiled by an engineering firm? Please, give us a break, incorporation advocates; we're grown-ups, not fools.

Don't try to sell us a glowing future based on your Rosy Scenarios, especially in the face of a world wide recession and huge funding cutbacks by the State of California to the cities and counties. You constantly tell us that the County Government neglects us and ignores our wishes but you even use their superlative maintenance of our roads as a reason why we, as a town, won't need to worry about their condition. So, the county neglects us but gives us great roads? Make up your minds, either they do their jobs or they don't. Don't try to scam us. We're adults.

Oh, and no area can be simply annexed by another, such as you constantly try to scare us with the notion that Walnut Creek or Danville could just take us over. It requires a petition of 25 percent of registered voters, a LAFCO hearing and then a majority vote of the people in the area to be annexed. Would you vote to be part of Danville or Walnut Creek? I thought not.

Tell us the truth. That's what we want to hear. Vote NO on Incorporation.

Denise M. Padovani, Alamo

Serving the communities of Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen

EDITORIAL

Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Staff Reporter

Geoff Gillette

Editorial Assistant

Amory Gutierrez

Contributors

Susan Astbury

Patty Briggs

B. Lynn Goodwin

Beverly Lane

Jacqui Love Marshall

Meghan Neal

Chris Scott

Maria Shen

Franklin Utchen

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director/

Operations Manager

Rick Nobles

Designers

Trina Cannon

Lili Cao

Kristin Herman

Manuel Valenzuela

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager

Mary Hantos

Advertising

Account Executives

Andrea Heggelund

Barbara Lindsey

Real Estate Sales

Nancy Taresh

Inside Sales

Art Gordillo

BUSINESS

Ad Services

Sandy Lee

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein

Circulation Manager

Bob Lampkin

How to reach the Weekly

117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:

Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calendar: DanvilleWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

mhantos@DanvilleWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

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

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

© 2008 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

School locked down after police chase

Students at John Baldwin Elementary School were placed on secure lockdown Friday, after a suspected car thief in a police pursuit entered the school grounds. California Highway Patrol spokesman Officer Steve Creel said the incident occurred at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 19 on westbound Sycamore Valley Road.

A CHP officer was in the left turn lane to enter southbound I-680 when the vehicle in front of him, a 1998 Mercedes SL, made an illegal U-turn on a red light. The officer turned on his lights and siren to make a traffic stop and the suspect turned right and fled down the off-ramp from northbound I-680 and sped off down the shoulder of the freeway in the wrong direction.

Creel said the officer followed the suspect down the ramp but then stopped pursuit due to safety reasons. At this point, several motorists began pointing to the suspect vehicle, which had performed a U-turn into oncoming traffic and was fleeing back up the off-ramp. The car accelerated up the ramp and turned right onto eastbound Sycamore Valley Road and then turned south onto Brookside Drive.

Officers found the vehicle abandoned near John Baldwin Elementary School. A check of the license plate found it was stolen in Martinez and officers began canvassing the area. Apparently the suspect, identified as 22-year-old Richard Poe of Antioch, went into the school and asked to use the telephone. Creel said it was unclear if Poe was allowed to use the phone, but administrators at the school initiated their security plan to keep the children in their classrooms and contacted police.

Poe left the building and was apprehended by officers setting up an area perimeter near Timberline Court. He was taken into custody on charges of possession of stolen property. He was taken to the Martinez Detention Center. Further charges may be filed pending the completion of the investigation.

Creel complimented the staff at Baldwin for their quick thinking and handling of the situation. Reports say the school remained on lockdown for nearly an hour after the arrest was made while officers searched the area for a possible second suspect. No other individuals were located.

—Geoff Gillette

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

Sunday, Dec. 14

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Greenbrook Dr. and Salem Town Ct. at 12:54 a.m.
- Vandalism on Contada Cir. at 12:37 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Inman Ct. at 12:49 p.m.
- Petty theft on Fostoria Way at 2 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 2:41 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on 400 block of Hartz Ave. at 8:26 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15

- Vandalism on Fountain Springs Cir. at 8:16 a.m.
- Identity theft on Myrtle Beach Lane at 10:04 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Linda Mesa Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 11:39 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Mariposa Ct. and Sheri Lane at 11:43 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on northbound I-680 on ramp and Stone Valley Rd. at 12:54 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Jasmine Way at 8:14 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Sycamore Valley Rd. and Tunbridge Rd. at 8:37 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Squirrel Ridge Way at 9:40 a.m.
- Petty theft on Brightwood Lane E. at 9:42 a.m.

POLICE LOG

- Accident, property damage, on Crow Canyon Rd. and El Capitan Dr. at 10:20 a.m.
- Grand theft on Dolcita Ct. at 10:26 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Crow Canyon Rd. and El Capitan Dr. at 1:10 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

- Defrauding innkeeper on Camino Ramon at 8:28 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Mariposa Ct. at 8:36 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Estates Dr. at 10:33 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Estates Dr. at 2:50 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Cameo Dr. and Green Valley Rd. at 3:37 p.m.
- Under the influence of drugs on Rassani Dr. at 6:39 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Alamos Dr. at 8:14 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

- Auto burglary on Indian Home Rd. at 7:50 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Ambleside Ct. at 9:26 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Mary Ct. at 9:47 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Fish Creek Pl. at 10:04 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Edgewater Ct. at 2 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Ambleside Ct. at 3:24 p.m.

- Drunk in public on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 3:47 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 6:56 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 off ramp at 11:33 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

- Defrauding innkeeper on Conway Dr. at 8:57 a.m.
- Petty theft on St. David Dr. at 10:46 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Alamo Ct. at 11:21 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Conejo Dr. at 4:11 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Paraiso Dr. at 5:17 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:52 p.m.
- Bomb threat on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 7:15 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Dunhill Dr. at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

- Petty theft on Hartz Way and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Old Blackhawk Rd. at 5:26 a.m.
- Vandalism on Shadewell Dr. at 9:11 a.m.
- Drugs violation, arrest, on Creekside Ave. and Sunshine Cir. at 2:58 p.m.
- Strong-arm robbery on Linda Mesa Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 10:42 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Gerald L. Spreen

Gerald L. Spreen, a resident of Alamo, died Nov. 22 at the age of 75.

He was born Jan. 6, 1933, in Paradise, Calif. He settled in Walnut Creek where he practiced as a CPA for 44 years. He was a former member of the Mt. Diablo Lions Club of Walnut Creek. He enjoyed the outdoors, working with his hands and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Glenna "Gerry" Spreen; his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Charles Miller; and two granddaughters. He was laid to rest Nov. 26 in Paradise. A memorial service for Gerald was held Dec. 12 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Donations may be made in Gerald's memory to the Lions Club of Walnut Creek.

Flora Moulthrop

Danville resident Flora Moulthrop died Nov. 9 at the age of 106.

She was born Aug. 16, 1902, in Oakland. She graduated in 1926 from the University of California. She married John Horace Moulthrop and they made their first home in Alameda. She became active in the Olive Branch of Children's Hospital of the East Bay. In 1942 they moved to Orinda and later to Los Angeles. In Southern California, she was

active in the Ebell Club of Los Angeles and Children's Hospital of Southern California, of which she was president. Upon returning to Northern California, she became active in Assistance League of Diablo Valley. She was widowed in 1997 after 68 years of marriage. She had a great love for her family, gardening and her animals.

She is survived by her sons, Franklin Wyman Moulthrop (Bud) of Lafayette and his wife Patty; John Buford Moulthrop of Alamo and wife Susan; and Clark Gray Moulthrop of Diablo and wife Ellen; her grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Services were private. Inurnment was at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville. Memorial donations may be made to Assistance League of Diablo Valley, 2711 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek 94597.

Francette Mauze Cameron

Francette Mauze Cameron, a former resident of Danville, died Nov. 15 at the age of 92.

She was born May 17, 1916, in Burbank and raised in Fresno. She was a junior high and high school teacher in Oakland and later was vice principal at a high school. She was a member of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization).

She is survived by her son, Alex (Judy) of Spokane; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 4 in Spokane, Wash. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Spokane, P.O. Box 2215, Spokane, WA 99210-2215.

Doris Margaret Morgan

Doris Margaret Morgan, a resident of Danville, died Nov. 15 at the age of 84.

She was born April 6, 1924, in Hayward. She graduated from San Ramon Valley High School and Heald College. She was an original settler of the Blackhawk area. She and her husband Albert owned and operated DU-MOR Dairy in Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill from 1957-79. She loved to travel, play tennis, golf and bridge. She was a member of the Golden Girls, the Old Crows, and several bridge groups.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 57 years, Albert Morgan, and her brother, Robert Kamp. She is survived by her three children, Russ and wife Cheryl Morgan of Pleasanton, Sharon Clore of Danville, and Tim Morgan of Martinez. She is also survived by six grandchildren; six great-grand children; two sisters, Lois Gompertz of San Ramon and Shirley Geraths of Walnut Creek, and her sister-in-law Regina Kamp of Livermore.

A memorial service was held in November at Oakmont Memorial Park and Mortuary in Lafayette.

Donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Salvatore Pasque Paladino

Salvatore Pasque Paladino, a resident of Alamo, died surrounded by his family Nov. 16 at the age of 83.

He was born April 12, 1925, in Cicero, Ill. He served as a lieutenant in WWII in the Army Air Corps. He raised his family in Illinois and moved to the Bay Area 32 years ago with his beloved wife Phyllis. He loved to travel, was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, and was an avid woodworker.

He is preceded in death by his wife Phyllis, who died in 1990. He is survived by his children Phillip Paladino (Barbara), David Paladino (Lois), Jane Bradford (Robin), Thomas Paladino (Michele) and Patricia Konigsberg (Neil); his brother Joseph; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services were Nov. 21 in Walnut Creek.

Charles E. Holman

Charles E. Holman, a resident of Danville, died Nov. 16 at the age of 90.

He was born Nov. 29, 1917. After 30 years as an airline pilot, he and his wife Vivienne traveled extensively around the world. During his retirement he enjoyed playing

the drums with Vivienne's orchestra, the Moonglowers. They played many venues including senior centers. He was a lover of horses and animals. He was a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's posse for 25 years, an avid golfer and owned his own boat, traveling through the Delta.

He was the beloved husband of Vivienne, devoted father of Diana Lynn Gerbovitz, son-in-law Tom, cherished grandfather of Michael and Kristine and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial was held Nov. 24 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Donations can be made in his name to the Bruns House Hospice, 2849 Miranda Ave., Alamo 94507.

Robert H. Frolich

Robert H. Frolich, a resident of Danville, died Nov. 17 at the age of 88.

He was born April 25, 1920, and was raised in Everett, Wash. He later served in WWII aboard the USS St. Louis as an aviation scout, surviving 14 major battles. He lived in Orinda and Danville with the love of his life, Peggy, who predeceased him. Together they ran Fine Day Paints and A Touch of Yesterday Antiques in Danville. They also sponsored numerous youth and adult sports teams.

At his request no services were held.

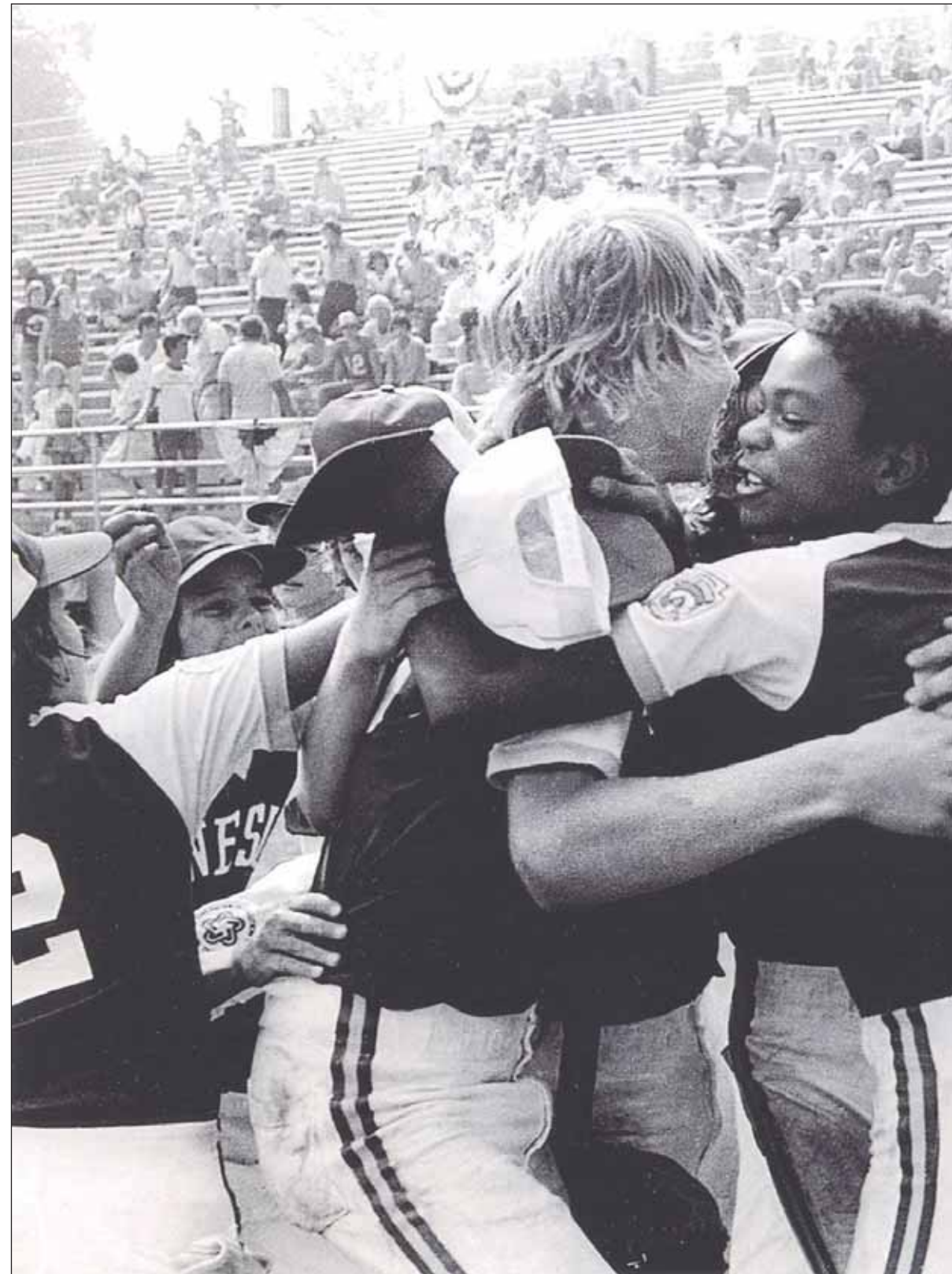


FILE PHOTO

A divided Danville: For the Nov. 4 election, the community was divided over California Proposition 8 to amend the state Constitution to add, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Supporters of each side held well attended rallies, and many lawns and cars had signs.



FILE PHOTO



SRV Little League turns 50: San Ramon Valley Little League All Star Team players Jeff Saenger and Erik Johnson celebrate their victory at the Bill Ross rejoices. The League celebrated its 50th anniversary in February.

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

This was a big year in the San Ramon Valley as the Town of Danville celebrated its sesquicentennial, the community of Alamo debated over voting on incorporation, and an election Nov. 4 reinstated three Danville Town Council members and sent a school board trustee to Sacramento.

More about these stories can be read at www.DanvilleWeekly.com. Current and past issues are all available—look in the lower right corner of the home page.

JANUARY

- A storm bashes the Danville area Jan. 4, causing 7,600 customers in the PG&E Diablo Division to be without power, and flooding in older Danville neighborhoods.
- Newly remodeled Alamo Chevron gas station opens with an Extra Mile convenience store.
- Save Mount Diablo announces a \$756,100 grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the purchase of 320 acres near Mt. Diablo State Park.
- Danville Planning Commission studies environmental report on

Elworthy Property on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, one mile south of Sycamore Valley Road.

- Park adjacent to Bridges restaurant is torn down to make room for a wine shop with a smaller area for relaxation.
- Danville library closes for two weeks for renovations, including state-of-the-art carpet tiles.

FEBRUARY

- San Ramon Valley Little League celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- Senior advocates report that the increased distribution of Danville's Silver Streak newsletter and a new fulltime senior recreation programmer have resulted in better attendance at town-sponsored activities.
- Danville leaders become alarmed when San Ramon moves to include the Tassajara Valley under its sphere of influence without notifying them.
- County Board of Supervisors lowers speed limit on Danville Boulevard through downtown Alamo from 30 mph to 25 mph.
- Danville Area Chamber of Commerce unveils new logo and Web site at its 60th annual Installation of Officers and Directors at Round Hill Country Club.
- Old gym at San Ramon Valley High School is suddenly closed

Good 20

Looking back at Danville
and other events



ROSS MCKEON

1978 National Little League Championship in Williamsport, Pa., with a hug while team manager



COURTESY TROOP 36

Boy Scout adventure: Kelson Quan leads Luc Dillow and Bryan Dotzler up one of the many hills along the Pacific Coast Highway as Scouts from Troop 36 make their way down the coast on their 380-mile adventure trip to Disneyland.

New look for Blackhawk Plaza: Excavation takes place at Blackhawk Plaza in front of the Blackhawk Automotive Museum as the shopping center's \$37 million renovations take place to allow room for more stores and to update the facades and landscaping and add a children's play area.



FILE PHOTO

oye to 08

ville's sesquicentennial
s great and small

then torn down because it probably could not withstand a major earthquake.

- San Ramon Valley High School girls varsity soccer team becomes the first winter soccer team in 20 years to win three straight North Coast Section championships.
- Flames engulf old Humburg house in Alamo, which had been moved from Orchard Court near Stone Valley Road to the 900 block of Danville Boulevard.
- School board puts a measure on the June 3 ballot to increase the current annual \$90 parcel tax to \$158.

MARCH

- Pack Foundation premieres its film "Graduation Day" to bring home the dangers of teen drinking and driving.
- San Ramon Valley YMCA begins clearing trees for its new 12-acre facility.
- County health department OKs Windmill Farms staying open if it encloses the space for cut melons, bulk food, dairy and meat.
- Four candidates file to run for the 15th Assembly District seat to replace termed-out Assemblyman Guy Houston: Democrats Joan Buchanan and Theodore Ford; and Republicans Abram Wilson and Judy Lloyd.

- California names June Hannon as Woman of the Year for 2008 for District 15, nominated by Assemblyman Guy Houston.
- Danville Planning Commission approves expansion plans of Community Presbyterian Church after a year of negotiations between the neighbors, the town and church staff.
- Jim Peterson, owner of Alamo Flower Co., places buckets of red flags at two crosswalks on Danville Boulevard for pedestrians to carry for greater visibility.

APRIL

- Fortune magazine identifies Danville as being in the top 100 places to live and to own a business.
- Town of Danville decides to hold two Hot Summer Nights car shows this summer instead of four, believing other events can be held on the freed up nights that would draw more residents downtown.
- Peace Lutheran dedicates the new interfaith mosaic on its northern outdoor wall to celebrate its 50th anniversary, which was last year.
- Alamo Incorporation Movement holds an informational meeting to answer questions for the community.

► Continued on page 20

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.



Yes! The Wolves celebrate after a "kill" as they play their way to winning the East Bay Athletic League championship then on to be champions of North Coast Section.

Battling their way to No. 1

What a ride it was for SRVHS women's volleyball

Story and photos by Lucille Vandersloot

The Lady Wolves served, spiked and battled their way through the EBAL volleyball season and went on to win the North Coast Section championship this year, the first NCS title since 2003 and only the third title in San Ramon Valley history.

The San Ramon Valley High School women's volleyball team placed first in the competitive East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) with a record of 12 wins and two losses. The team included nine seniors: Sammi Buono (setter), Annie Begin and Amy Mulligan (outside hitters), Allison Cole (right side hitter), Brianna Vandersloot and Leah Foltz (middle blockers), Jenna Maestre (libero-defense), Ginny Kenyon (libero-defense), and Katie

Conneely (middle hitter); juniors Lauren Van Fossen (setter) and Caitlin Sherwood (right side hitter/setter); and sophomores Victoria Acosta (outside hitter) and Suneel Washom (outside hitter).

The team was packed with strong players, including seniors who had played together throughout high school, but the Wolves did not have one "star" to attract others' attention. Instead they continually surprised their opponents with their depth. Coach Tom Bauhs and Assistant Coach Lindsey Hirzel didn't mind, though, that the team had been "flying under the radar." Last year's team, composed mainly of these players with the significant addition of then-senior Lauren Claybaugh, came in second to Amador Valley in the NCS CIF Finals.

► Continued on page 15



Assistant Coach Lindsey Hirzel, as well as Coach Tom Bauhs and Assistant Coach Jan Crow, fired up the girls throughout their winning season.

Volleyball

► Continued from page 14

But this year's season began slowly for the Wolves. The first league game was against a highly regarded Amador Valley team. An article in a newspaper just prior to the game misquoted the Amador coach as neglecting to mention the Wolves in his estimation of possible EBAL contenders; this got the Wolves all fired up, and they proceeded to play their best to date, crushing the Lady Dons, 3-0. Shortly afterward they beat Granada (then the hottest team in the league) in a closely contested match, winning 3-2.

It appeared that the Wolves had righted the ship and were about to realize their great potential. But reality struck and after tough losses to Cal High and Carondelet, the Wolves finished the first half of the EBAL season 5-2. Fortunately they were still tied for first place since no one had run away with the league.

Things changed dramatically during the ensuing Castro Valley Tournament in early October. By then the team had begun to gel and went on a roll. They narrowly lost the tournament championship to Miramonte in a third game but beat several good teams decisively, including Carondelet in a rematch.

The second half of EBAL started the next week and the Wolves were not to lose another game in league play. In an additional tournament at Northgate, the team reached the finals and came in second place to the host team.

Thanks to the intense direction of coaches Bauhs and Hirzel, the Wolves won EBAL. Assistant Varsity Coach Jan Crow, who is also JV head coach, contributed to the Wolves' positive outlook and intense energy. Winning the EBAL title gave the team an automatic berth in the NCS regional tournament and play began with San Ramon Valley as second seed.

Strong wins over Mission San Jose and Castro Valley propelled the Wolves into the championship game against Granada, whom they had beaten twice in league play. The championship match was a tense, well fought, largely even affair with the lead going back and forth. The Wolves pulled ahead in the pivotal fifth game with a strong start and won, coming away with the NCS Championship Title.

After winning NCS, one of 10 sections in the state California Interscholastic Federation, the team received the second seed in the Northern California State tournament. This NCS Finals game was played in the Monte Vista gym since SRVHS is currently without a facility, and the Mustangs gave gracious assistance on that momentous Saturday evening of Nov. 22.

Throughout the season, school spirit played a big role in the team's cohesiveness, with incredible support from "our amazing 7th Man Fans," who usually outnumbered the other teams' fans, even at away games. Four of the fans attended every single match, and typically 10 to 20 would stand throughout the games, faces and bodies painted green and gold, cheering loudly.



Above: We're No. 1! The winning varsity volleyball team at San Ramon Valley High School had members (top row, l-r) Sarah Board, Caitlin Sherwood, Amy Mulligan, Annie Begin, Brianna Vandersloot, Katie Conneely, Victoria Acosta, Allie Cole, Leah Foltz, Sunee Washom; (front row) Ginny Kenyon, Sammi Buono, Jenna Maestre, Lauren Van Fossen and Kirsten Fernandez.

Below: The "7th Man Fans" were key in the Wolves' success, led by No. 1 fan Travis Selland, who wore a yellow cape and waved a flag to lead the cheers.



No. 1 fan Travis Selland wore a yellow cape and waved a large "SRV Volleyball" flag to lead the cheers. Player posters were displayed on the walls, spurring the Lady Wolves on to victory. Most of the season was played in the auxiliary gym, which at times made for crowded matches.

In addition the Lady Wolves had a lot

of fun advertising their volleyball team during the school days. Each game day was a "dress-up" day, reminding the other students to come to the match that afternoon. The crazier the costumes, the better. The varsity girls dressed as tourists, cowboys and Indians, "black stealth," hippies, "savages," sleepyheads (in pj's)

and, one of the favorites, as "nerds."

Decisively winning the competitive East Bay Athletic League and becoming NCS champions were goals for the team early on and its members should be proud. Speaking for all the parents and fans, thank you, team, for a terrific season and many wonderful memories. ■

Season highlights

- Overall season record: 32 wins, 11 losses
- EBAL record: 12 wins, 2 losses
- All EBAL First Team: Sammi Buono, Brianna Vandersloot
- All EBAL Second Team: Annie Begin, Amy Mulligan
- All EBAL Honorable Mention: Allison Cole
- NCS Quarterfinals win over Mission San Jose: 3 games to 0
- NCS Semifinals win over Castro Valley: 3 games to 1
- NCS Championship win over Granada: 3 games to 2
- The first NCS Championship for San Ramon Valley since 2003 season
- The third NCS Championship ever for San Ramon Valley High School
- The Wolves are also NCS Distinguished Scholastic Award Winners.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 26-30

Women's Basketball

Costa Mesa Tournament

Men's Basketball

Marin Catholic Tournament

Saturday-Tuesday, Dec. 27-30

Women's Basketball

Mitty Tournament

Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 27, 29-30

Men's Basketball

St. Francis Tournament at Mountain View

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Men's Soccer

San Ramon Valley at Mitty, 11 a.m.



LIQUID LIBRARY

BEING HOMELESS

by Bob Fagan

I'm not much different from many East Bay dads or businessmen. I am a 50-year-old divorcee, the proud father of two wonderful teenagers who attend San Ramon Valley High School. I have owned some modestly successful businesses and headed up and turned around some organizations in a continuing career. There is nothing too remarkable or unusual about me except that no one would ever picture me as a shabbily dressed homeless person.

A while back I stepped out of my safe, secure suburban existence and spent five days and nights living on the streets and sidewalks of San Francisco. Hardly street savvy, many of my life lessons were gained on the farm fields of southeastern Pennsylvania, the playing fields or in the boardrooms.

I chose the week before Thanksgiving to become "homeless" in San Francisco. My life had typically been so busy with the children and work, and trying to start a dating life. With my children and lady friend out of town, and just having finished a work assignment, there was a perfect window of opportunity for time off. No one knew of my whereabouts except for leaving an answering machine message that I was away and out of communication.

Working in cities from time to time, I have long observed those weary tattered folks, pushing a shopping cart or curled up over a heat vent or asking for a handout. You may notice them, too. Perhaps you have avoided them, were afraid to make eye contact or maybe you have shown them compassion. More than likely you have not been too comfortable in their presence.

Yet, what if you or I were on the streets?

My preparation for this special sabbatical was minimal. I stopped shaving a few days ahead of time, delayed a haircut, and for about 24 hours ahead of time, I only drank water. As

Executive Bob Fagan learns life lessons from five homeless days and nights in San Francisco



far as personal items, I took a pocketknife, a magic trick, \$25 in quarters to give away, and \$20 stuffed into my socks for emergencies. I wore five thin layers of clothes up top and long underwear and old blue jeans below. Some old shoes that were ready for the Dumpster and a faded red hooded sweat jacket with an old knitted green and white stocking cap completed my attire. My coke-bottle thick glasses would be a fitting complement to the look.

My ace in the hole was that I did possess a return ticket to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station with a comfortable car parked there waiting for me.

Missing the normal daily hygiene needs and the comfort of a dry, comfortable house and bed was to be expected. My first shock was witnessing nearly two dozen men and a woman choosing to relieve themselves during a two-hour period on the Market Street sidewalks that first night. Next it was really problematic to find a place on the concrete to lie down that did not have the stench of urine. I finally salvaged a small piece of cardboard to rest my shoulders and head on.

It was surprising how noisy the city was late at night with construction work all around. About 2 a.m. the first evening I fell into a deep sleep only to experience two sharp pokes in the ribs. Looking down at me was a fellow looking far older than his years hunched over asking me if I had any "smokes or coin." Though the man was harmless enough, I then realized that when I was

asleep I was physically vulnerable. I never did sleep quite so well from that time on.

The first two nights were quite cold and damp. In fact, the temperature dipped below freezing, the coldest nights that year. I found myself crawling into commercial buildings on my hands and knees to avoid security every so often so I could get warm for a few minutes. The evenings, however, were therapeutic, a great time to meditate, reflect and walk about the city in quiet solitude.

The days were quite another thing. Nothing could have prepared me for the emotions and loneliness I encountered during the day. Sitting on the sidewalk or standing aside a building for minutes seemed like hours. Here I was in the midst of hundreds of people and never have I felt so alone. Whether I was situated on busy Market Street or in the Tenderloin district, everyone I saw had a purpose: to do an errand, get back and forth from work, go shopping, meet someone for a meal, or enjoy entertainment with a friend. What's more, I assumed they would all enjoy a soft, warm bed and a hot meal that night.

I had no purpose, no responsibilities, no acquaintances, nowhere to go, and no one in the world knew I was here. I never did expect a "normal person" to engage me, let alone make eye contact, but I never anticipated the loneliness that would accompany having no purpose. If someone is a sane, sober person, I can now appreciate how and why they could lose either trait.

Typically the homeless have very few if any relationships, which is the saddest twist. Though I am not particularly extroverted, it drove home how much I need people in my life. Besides, isn't it wonderful to share memories with someone?

Properly hungry, I frequented the back door and Dumpster areas of restaurants, hardly the tablecloth and wine decor that I usually associate with my city dining experiences. Standing outside some of the Union Square establishments, I was usually ushered on as opposed to being welcomed in. Fast food establishments were my restrooms of choice, a place to take a paper towel bath.

Originally I wondered if I would engage any of the other homeless in conversation. Would I encounter down-on-their-luck professionals? Soon I deemed it better to keep to my own business. I must have encountered maybe 200 fellow drifters and less than a dozen I could identify as women. Most of those people are sadly mentally or emotionally ill or the casualty of drugs or all of the above. The vast majority appeared fiercely independent, though most would be quick to accept any charity cash, a drink, a drug fix, or food; and cash is king. Other than a few other homeless talking at me, none really talked to me.

One of the liberating aspects of being homeless was the complete sense of freedom, but at the high cost of loneliness. They live a very independent life of freedom: no mail, no bills, no bosses and no responsibilities. Survival appeared to be their primary and possibly only purpose.

Inspired by the movie, "Pay It Forward," I chose to beg for money on my fifth and final night. Armed with an outstretched arm, a cup and a hopeful smile, I had 14 people drop coins into my cup during a two-hour period on Market Street. For each who did,

► Continued on page 17

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

Around 1890, this group picnicked under the trees at Cox's Grove, which was located north of San Ramon.

Party launches Danville's Social and Fraternal Hall

Our holiday parties have nothing on some parties in the past. In 1913 the event of the season took place when the new Social and Fraternal Hall opened on Front Street in Danville. There were inaugural speeches, a grand march and a Dedication Ball on Nov. 28.

A lengthy newspaper article described the event:

"All Danville and the folks throughout the countryside for miles around are refurbishing up their finest feathers for tomorrow night's grand ball. The fine new social and fraternal hall, just completed at a cost far in excess of \$10,000, will throw open its portals to the public for the first time, and before the grand march, brief inaugural addresses will be delivered by the grand officers of the Grange and of the Odd Fellows' lodges as well as by others who aided the fraternity members in the work of providing their pleasant home town with a center where all might meet for mutual betterment and friendly relaxation.

"Another very important epoch in Danville history, the extension of the electric line to the lovely inland city, is also to be signalized and joyously celebrated at the Thanksgiving ball. If possible a special train will be run over the almost complete line for the

conveyance of guests from Alamo, LaFayette and Walnut Creek.

"The spacious and elegant hall has been lavishly decorated in anticipation of the great event. The blooming gardens for which Danville is famous have been stripped of their fairest flowers to provide garlands for the adornment of the newly opened shrine of friendship, and all loyal townspeople are working as one man to make the occasion memorable in the annals of Contra Costa.

"Music for the dancers will be furnished by the well known Merzbach orchestra from San Francisco, whose admirable programs form real concerts in themselves. The floor managers will be Ralph Dobson, C.G. Goold and C.J. Wood, the grand march being led by A.F. Bray and his charming bride. The dances will be those only which are approved by good taste and established social custom, interspersed with reels and square dances, in which those whose hearts and young, however many their years, will show the belles and beaux of today that those of yesterday are as well versed as they are in the art of portraying the poetry of motion.

"During the evening a real Danville supper will be served—why say more? Perhaps some of

the guests may dance themselves tired, but none will go hungry.

"In addition to the floor committee already mentioned, good work has also been done by the invitation committee, composed of B.W. Stone, chairman, Miss Elizabeth Wood, B.W. Bennett, Rodger Podva and Mrs. E.F. Williams. The affair is under the general supervision of the directorate of the Danville Fraternal and Social Hall Association, composed of B.W. Stone, president; Ralph Dobson, vice-president; F.E. Stelling, secretary; John Hartz, treasurer; C.G. Goold and C.J. Wood.

"Choose your partners, then, and lose not time; for the fiddlers are even now tuning up, and none of us can afford to miss the Danville Thanksgiving ball."

Readers may wonder just what happened to the new hall and, for that, they have not far to go. The Social and Fraternal Hall is now the Village Theatre at 233 Front St.

Sources: museum archives, newspaper article copied from a scrapbook kept by the Wood family (probably Charlotte Wood)

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."

Homeless

► Continued from page 16

I gave them a dollar bill from my emergency stash in return. Eleven of the 14 were dumfounded by my gesture. I simply told them to "pass it forward" and "thanks for showing heart." It made me feel human again; I had been starting to wonder.

It was my final morning, the day before Thanksgiving, and at 4 a.m. I was ready to go home. Another day was not going to prove more. By 7 a.m. I was home in my famil-

iar warm, safe surroundings. Before entering my house I stripped down in the garage and tossed my clothes in the washing machine. I then took a long, welcomed hot shower, followed by a late morning nap in my cozy, warm bed.

The life lesson that immediately hit me was that I, as well as most of us in America, live a life of abundance. You could take everything away from me except my health, my time and my relationships, and I would still be a very wealthy man. That realization has since led me to a greater contentment with life in general.

In the meantime, the company

I had been helping to start lost its funding and closed. Like many, my investment and retirement portfolio suffered losses. Now I was better prepared than ever to cope.

The more important lesson was one just as powerful: a newfound appreciation for relationships, health and time. Simply stated, each of us is presented every day with a life-altering choice. That choice is whether or not we choose to be content with what we already have. The challenge for me has been an acquired taste and an appreciation for the better, finer, faster, smaller, more powerful and

The Wine Guy



BY DON, THE EVERYDAY WINE GUY

Zin gets the win

Last Saturday, I thought it would be fun to have a get together with some friends to do some wine tasting. We got four couples together and each couple brought one bottle of red and one bottle of white wine. The only rule was that each wine had to cost under \$20. We then did a blind taste test and rated each of the wines.

We used a scoring system to decide the winner (one winner for white and one for red). The most points that any one wine could receive if everyone loved it was 35 points. (If you would like to know how we set it up, etc.—just e-mail and I will send you the details.)

Going into this, I thought what better way for me to taste the J. Lohr Zinfandel than to enter it into the "competition." The results amazed me. Of the 35 available points, the J. Lohr received 28, with the next closest wine getting 20. A clear cut winner of the wine tasting.

Here is what I liked about the wine:

The first thing I checked was the body of the wine—just by looking at it I could see that it would be a medium body, not a big heavy Meritage or a light pinot but a smooth and easy-to-drink wine. It had a fabulous smell to it. I never really understood how wine could smell spicy—but it does. You can really smell the peppers in this wine with other berry type scents.

The main things I look for in wines are: flavor, balance and aftertaste. This one was full of flavor both before and during dinner. It could easily be served with or without food. The balance was very consistent—it started and ended nicely with just a small aftertaste. The only minor flaw was that there was not a long lingering aftertaste (although some

2007 J. LOHR ESTATES Old Vines Zinfandel, Paso Robles
Cost \$15

may consider that a positive). As for food pairing—this is perfect for pasta, chicken, lighter meats or heavier fish (i.e., swordfish). It will be washed away by heavy or spicy meals.

Ultimately, it comes down to: Would I buy this wine again? This week, I was driving through San Jose and I stopped at the J. Lohr Tasting Room and bought a case of it. It is a very nice, reasonably priced wine that will continue to improve over the next five years in the bottle (although in my case will probably last three months).

So here was the trick to winning the Wine Tasting. When buying a wine to appeal to the masses, it is kind of like winning the presidential election. You need to appeal to the middle of the road, not the extremes. If you

pick a Chianti, you will lose votes from those that like lighter wine; and if you pick a light pinot noir, you lose the full body wine drinkers. The same holds true for smell, flavor and aftertaste. This zinfandel is something that will appeal to the masses. It is not a once-in-a-lifetime wine but is a perfect everyday wine—and that is what I like.

In the next article, I am going to change things up and compare two "gift" wines (wines that cost more than I would normally spend) from the same vineyard—St. Clement Vineyards: 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$36) vs. 2005 Merlot (\$28).

Until then, cheers!

Don Colman, the Everyday Wine Guy lives in Danville and can be reached at everydaywineguy@hotmail.com.

more prestigious "stuff." When that appreciation becomes an appetite, it creates stress and puts things out of balance. It dawned on me that I was setting myself up for recurring dissatisfaction.

Many of us are constantly racing through life, failing to stop and appreciate the many blessings we have all around us. We are racing toward the future, be it an appointment, a vacation, a retirement, or even a relationship. What if we were to simply step back and observe, and appreciate?

Two days later on the Friday after Thanksgiving, clean-shaven and

well clad, I revisited San Francisco for a day of shopping with my lady friend. There were some familiar faces that didn't recognize me, and I observed some very familiar patches of pavement as I recounted to her what I had just experienced. San Francisco will never be the same for me; I am different now, grown a little. And now every day is Thanksgiving.

Bob Fagan, a Pleasanton resident, is the western vice president of the Callahan Group Inc. and specializes in mentoring and personal coaching. He can be reached at rsf4653@aol.com.

Calendar

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

Art

Art and Artists of the San Ramon Valley Enjoy a visual preview of the art exhibit "Art and Artists of the San Ramon Valley" at 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. The exhibit will run from February through May at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Call 837-4889.

Auditions

'Twelve Angry Women' Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW will host auditions for "Twelve Angry Women," a remake of "Twelve Angry Men" during the first week of January. For information, call Lynn at 324-0143 or Susan at 820-9071.

Youth Music Festival Auditions Auditions will be held for solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 14-15, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Appointments are required; call 931-3481.

Classes

Golden Crane Free Classes Join Golden Crane Senior Center every Monday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Dec. 29, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo, for Yoga, Karaoke, Chinese Brush Painting, Calligraphy, Yuan Ji Dance, Line dancing and lectures. Classes are free. Visit www.goldencrane.com.

Clubs

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society Alamo-Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) hosts monthly meetings featuring well-known guest artist demonstrations on the second Tuesday of every month. These meetings are free and open to the public. This society also hosts Art in the Park and Open Studios to raise funds for art programs in the San Ramon Valley area schools. Visit www.adas4art.org.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club This club is open to new and long-time residents of the surrounding areas. If you are interested in making new friends, learning more about the area or getting involved in various activities, call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvilnewcomers.com.

Amador Valley Quilters Meeting This club will meet for its January meeting featuring Karen Boutte with a lecture about African American Quilters and their Quilts from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave.

Danville Lions Club This club meets at 7 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Brass Door, San Ramon. For information, call Tom Jackson at 984-1541.

Danville PM Toastmaster Club #1785 The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information, call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com.

Danville Rotary The Danville Rotary meets at noon, every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvillerotary.org.

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

Diablo View Toastmasters AM Afraid of public speaking? Lose your fears and develop communication and leadership skills by meeting with the Diablo View Toastmasters from 7:55-9 a.m., every Tuesday, at 111 2333 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call Sahar Kordahi at 315-8730.

Diablo View Toastmasters Club Novice and veteran speakers meet to support and encourage development of professional and personal speaking skills from 7:55-9 a.m., every Tuesday, at 111 Deerwood Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. Call 736-8808.

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

Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley meets from noon-1 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Meetings include lunch, a guest speaker and business networking. Guests are invited with reservations; call 275-2412.

Friends of the Danville Library Friends of the Danville Library are renewing annual memberships and recruiting new members to help support, raise funds and sponsor programs for the Danville library. There are many benefits of being a Friend including merchant discounts, volunteer opportunities and preview of book sales. Dues and donations are tax deductible. Application forms are at the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

Grandmothers Club Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. If interested, contact Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club The Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club is a place to learn, share and discuss. It meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, second floor conference room, San Ramon. Call 397-2093.

Job's Daughters Installation The members of Bethel No. 247 Danville of Job's Daughters International will host an installation ceremony from 7-11 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Danville Grange, 743 Diablo Rd. A reception and dance will follow the ceremony; semi-formal attire. This event is free. Call 829-8505.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meetings include networking, lunch and a guest speaker. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org or call 244-1227.

Moms Club of Danville-Tassajara Come join a support group for stay-at-home moms. It meets at 10 a.m., the last Tuesday of every month; moms with children of all ages are welcome. Dues are \$28 per year. E-mail Angeline at hal2006@att.net.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon This club will host a lun-

cheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Brass Door, San Ramon. Guest speaker will be Franklin Dill, physical therapist and director of Sport Fit. Call Paula at 735-6483 or visit www.srvnc.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 8. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

Carlos Reyes' Latin Jazz See brilliant Latin Jazz and traditional folkloric music by Carlos Reyes, instrumentalist of the highest caliber, 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for Gold Circle; \$25 for adults; \$10 for SRVHS staff and students with ID. Call 229-2710.

Events

Contemporary Ballet's Program A

Company C Contemporary Ballet presents Program A, which includes the world premiere of Charles Anderson's "The Song Remains the Same", a new ballet set to six Led Zeppelin songs at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Jan. 23-24, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$40 for general seating, \$25 for students and seniors. Call 943-SHOW (943-7469) or visit www.companycballet.org.

Holiday Welcome Home Ceremony

Valley Military Heroes on holiday leave will be honored at a special ceremony from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 27, at AT&T, 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. If you know an honoree from San Ramon, Danville, Dublin, Blackhawk or Alamo, call Janet Pedersen at 973-2532.

Single Cougars Party Single adults of all ages are invited to break the age barrier at the first-ever Single Cougars Party from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. The party is based on Valerie Gibson's book "Cougar: A Guide for Older Women Dating Younger Men." Cost is \$10. Call (415) 507-9962 or visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

Tour of the Blackhawk Museum

Blackhawk Museum sponsors a docent-led tour of the museum's Renowned Exhibitions at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The tour is free with admission. For information, call 736-2280.

Exhibits

Illuminated Sculpture Bedford Gallery will host an exhibit titled "Illuminated Sculpture" from Jan. 11-Feb. 22, at the Bedford Gallery, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. An opening reception will be from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11; admission is \$5. Call 295-1417.

Fundraisers

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16 (members only from 9-10 a.m.); 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17; and from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

TVAR's Claws for Paws Crab Feast

Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, for its fourth annual crab feast with all the crab you can eat plus

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Farmers Market featuring artichokes

Did you know that California provides nearly all of the country's artichokes? The Danville Farmers Market will feature artichokes this week; it is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. For recipes on how to prepare artichokes, visit www.pcfma.com.

Caesar salad, pasta, French bread, dessert, coffee and tea and a no host bar. Games and drawings for baskets and cash will be held. The cost is \$45 before Jan. 17 or \$50 after. Visit www.tvvar.org or call 323-8517.

Health

Natural Relief from Colds, and Ear Infections

Learn about homeopathic remedies and simple home care tips to ease the symptoms of colds, flu, ear infections and more from 7-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, at Elephant Pharm, 1388 S California Blvd., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 826-3858.

Open Gym Town of Danville is offering Adult Open Gym from 6:45-9:15 a.m., Saturdays, at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemmer Road, Danville. Discounted pass cards are \$4 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3386.

Holiday

Menorah Lightings Celebrate the Holiday of Chanukah with a Grand Menorah Lighting of Contra Costa's Largest Menorah, from 4-6 p.m., on the Eighth Night, Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Broadway Plaza Fountain, Walnut Creek. Fun for the whole family with face painting, balloons, donuts and music. Visit www.JewishContraCosta.com or call 937-4101.

Kids and Teens

Children's Film Festival Review

Inspire young cinematographers to follow their dreams to see the best award-winning short films for children from the California Independent Film Festival on Saturday, Jan. 17, at Front Row Theater at Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$8. Call 973-ARTS or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

Free Online Tutoring Available

Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>

Kids Circle and Teen Talk The Wellness Community will host this workshop for school-age children and

teens to participate in activities that will help them express themselves when a parent has cancer from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

Masked Marvels and Wondertales

Michael Cooper's one-man extravaganza features his original stories of courage and wonder, breathtaking handcrafted masks, outlandish stilt dancing, and a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime. Starts at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 11, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Cost varies from \$12-30.

Thomas the Tank Engine Funshop

Blackhawk Museum will host a drop-in funshop about Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with museum admission. Call 736-2277.

Willy Clafin to Entertain at Next SaturYAY!

Parents' Choice Gold Award winner Willy Clafin and his sidekick, Maynard the Moose, will entertain with stories and musical surprises at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults; \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civicartstickets.org.

YMCA Activities

The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Lectures/Workshops

'Dialogues' Lecture Series

Contra Costa Jewish Community Center will host a lecture series, "Dialogues," featuring guest speakers at 7:30 p.m., at Contra Costa JCC, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Jesse Choper will speak on Wednesday, Jan. 21; Michael S. Baker on Wednesday, Feb. 4; Richard Gonzales on Wednesday, March 18; Mark Yudof on Thursday, April 2; and Noah Alper on Thursday, May 21. Tickets go on sale Jan. 1;

call 938-7800, ext. 0 or visit www.coccc.org/dialogues.

Ask the Pharmacist Join Zan Sorooshian, Kaiser Oncology Pharmacist, as he answers questions about medications and how they may interact with chemotherapy drugs, and how medication side effects can be managed from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop This 16-week series is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment for breast cancer and meets from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jan. 14-April 29, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Guest medical experts will present information. This group is free. Call 933-0107.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvar.org.

Free Computer Instruction The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, Powerpoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889

Recycle for Breast Cancer Recycle for Breast Cancer is open seven days a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs, at 31 Beta Ct., Suite C, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org.

The Energy Primer for Kids The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is available for groups wishing to hear about the global warming propaganda. Call 837-7612.

Political Notes

Historical Perspective on the Presidency Commonwealth Club will host different speakers will who talk about "Problems with Progress" from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$12 for members; \$18 for non-members. Visit www.commonwealthclub.org.

Inaugural Celebration Festival An inaugural celebration festival honoring President Elect Barack Obama will be from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Admission is \$10. Visit www.oaklandinaguralball.myevent.com.

Recreation

Team In Training Information Meeting Take on the physical challenge of a full or half marathon, triathlon, cycle century ride (100 miles) or distance hike event with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. A meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at San Ramon Valley High School, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Call (800) 78-TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf.

Seniors

Bridge Seniors meet to play bridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Experienced players only. Cost is \$1. Reservations are required. Call Jerri Kaldem at 837-6283.

Buzz Sessions Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors

from 1-2:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400.

Danville Senior Citizens Club The club meets from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. New members are welcome. Membership is \$12 a year. Call Patricia Graber at 443-0268.

Prime Time Special Presentations Prime Time holds non-denominational gatherings for "seasoned citizens" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. The group also hosts special presentations at 11 a.m., Saturdays, including The Good Time Performers on Jan. 31; Don Phelps, a leading authority of Native American artifacts on Feb. 14; and The Singing Realtors on Feb. 28. Call Ruth Ann at 820-6387.

Senior Sneaker Trips Town of Danville hosts Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Seniors Program Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall Lounge hosts a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board games, visiting with friends and meeting new people. Call 314-3400.

St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart' Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The cost is \$30 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040, ext. 53.

Spiritual

'Standing on the Threshold' San Damiano will host a weekend retreat "Standing on the Threshold" from Dec. 30-Jan. 1, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. There will be a study of the power and choices of thresholds. Cost is \$205 for a private room; \$175 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Sri Aurobindo's Life Divine Join an ongoing reading, meditation and yoga group every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The group is dedicated to the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and meets at a private residence in Danville. The event is free. E-mail Samesh at shinasa@hotmail.com or call (650) 218-4223.

Sports

Late Fees Waived for Danville Little League In recognition of tough economic times, Danville Little League will postpone late registration fees in all divisions. The new late fee schedule is: late fees apply Jan. 1 for League ages 9-16 and Jan. 15 for League ages 5-8. Visit <http://danvillelittleleague.net>.

SRVGAL Registration Ongoing Player registration is now open for the 2009 spring fast pitch season. Visit www.srvgal.org to register. Due to the economy, they have extended the \$50 early bird discount through the end of the year.

Tassajara Valley Little League Sign-Ups Sign up for Tassajara Valley Little League baseball now through

Wednesday, Dec. 31. Visit www.eteamz.com/tvll. For information, call 837-3716.

Support Groups

Addiction Counseling Narconon offers free counseling, assessments and referrals to centers nationwide to families in need of drug or alcohol addiction help. Call (800) 468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com.

American Chronic Pain Association The ACPA group meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

Bipolar Support Group The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

Blue Star Moms California Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Cancer Support Groups Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their loved ones, including general support groups for all types of cancer patients as well as cancer specific groups for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, brain tumor, support groups for caregivers and life after cancer. Groups meet at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For times and days, call 933-0107.

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 736-5100, e-mail celebraterecovery@eastbayfellowship.org or visit www.eastbayfellowship.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Join the group at their meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays, at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr. Optional \$2-5 donation. Call 297-9246 or visit www.clutterless.org.

Danville TOPS The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870.

Find Help For Addiction Problems with drug or alcohol addiction in a loved one? Don't know whom to turn to for help? Contact Drug Rehab Resource for a free confidential consultation to find the help you need. Call (866) 649-1594 or visit www.drugrehabresource.net.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? There is a solution to weight and diet obsession. This effective 12-step program has proven results. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For a complete listing of East Bay meetings, call 838-1837 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Heart Support Group Heart support group for heart disease patients, their families and caregivers meets from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of every month (except November and December), at Kaiser Walnut Creek Medical Center, Third Floor Conference Center, Walnut Creek. Its mission is to "inspire hope in heart disease patients and their families." Call 708-4151 or visit www.mendedhearts254.org.

Man to Man Prostate Cancer San Ramon Regional Medical Center offers "Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group" from 7:30-9 p.m., the

second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets from 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail dsashby@msn.com.

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit www.dvig.org.

PFLAG The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

SRV Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County This group meets at 7 p.m., the second Monday of every month (except August), at John Muir Medical Center, at either the Walnut Creek Campus, Ball Auditorium or the Concord Campus, Concord Room (locations alternate every other month). The group hosts guest speakers and provides coping groups for stroke survivors with and without aphasia or caregivers of stroke survivors. Call 376-6218.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, on the second Saturday of every month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The group provides peer support for Parkinson's patients and for their caregivers, families and friends. Call Norman or Jackie Bardsley at 831-9940.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club This club provides support, information and friendship for mothers of any number of multiples meeting every second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. R/T discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; roundtable discussion is open to all current and prospective members from 7:30-9 p.m., hosted by a twin mom member. Dads and babies welcome! Call 484-5886 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

Volunteering

Adult Literacy Tutor Training Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, announces tutor training for volunteer literacy tutors from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Jan. 21 and 24 and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Jan. 31, at 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill. To register, call 927-3250 or e-mail psc@ccclib.org. Cost is a \$15 donation. Call 927-3250.

Animal Fosters Urgently Needed Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is looking for short-term fosters for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. ARF will provide the food, supplies and vet care; all you need to do is provide the love. Call 296-3173 or visit www.arf.net.

Anna's Program The specialized program of Hospice of the East Bay, Anna's Program, is looking for dedicated and caring volunteers to provide companionship and practical support for women with recurrent breast cancer. To apply for free training, contact Vicki Smith at 887-5675 or e-mail vickis@hospiceeastbay.org.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift

shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

Blackhawk Museum Docent Training If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

Bruns House In-Patient Hospice Bruns House In-Patient Hospice is seeking volunteers to fill two- to four-hour shifts during the weekdays and weekends. To apply for free training, call 887-5678 and ask for the volunteer department, or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

CCI Volunteer Puppy Raising Program Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) are looking for special volunteers interested in raising a CCI puppy for 15-18 months and are now accepting applications. For information, call 1-800-572-BARK (572-2275) or visit www.cci.org.

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art The academy seeks new volunteers and members to help with tasks ranging from bookkeeping to recruiting instructors. The group meets noon-1 p.m., the second Friday of the month at Richard's Art & Craft Store, 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654.

Friends of Discovery Discovery Counseling Center has received more than \$5 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne at 837-7998.

Help Your Senior Neighbors A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmoore at 314-3476 for more information.

Hospice of the East Bay Hospice of the East Bay is seeking volunteers to assist hospice patients and their caregivers. Opportunities include: volunteers who are fluent in Spanish; Patient Support Volunteers; Licensed Hair Stylists to offer hair cuts and styling; Certified Massage Therapists; Handymen to help with minor repairs and maintenance; Mobile notaries; and Bereavement Support Volunteers to provide support to family members after their loved one has died. To apply for free training, call 887-5678 and ask for the volunteer department, or e-mail peggyh@hospiceeastbay.org.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. No experience needed. Call 627-2444 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

New Docent Training at Forest Home Farms Forest Home Farms is looking for volunteers to help with the third-grade fieldtrip program and will schedule docent training on Thursday, Jan. 15, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 973-3282 or visit www.srhf.org.

Role Players Ensemble Theatre Volunteer to greet, seat and serve refreshments to Role Players Ensemble Theatre patrons at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Work once per production with a team of 3-4 friendly volunteers. Performances are at 8 p.m., Thursday-Saturday and at 2 p.m., Sunday. Call 820-1278.

San Damiano Retreat Opportunities abound for people of all ages and abilities at San Damiano. Sit and socialize while helping with mailings, enjoy solitude and meditation while cultivating the flower, vegetable and fruit gardens or lend your support to the front desk and gift shop. Call 837-9141, ext. 307 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

San Ramon Valley Education Foundation The San Ramon Valley Education Foundation meets the first Friday of every month, 7:45-8:45 a.m., at 699 Old Orchard Dr., Danville. This is a great way to get involved in the education of our local communities. Call 998-5270.

Year in review

► Continued from page 13

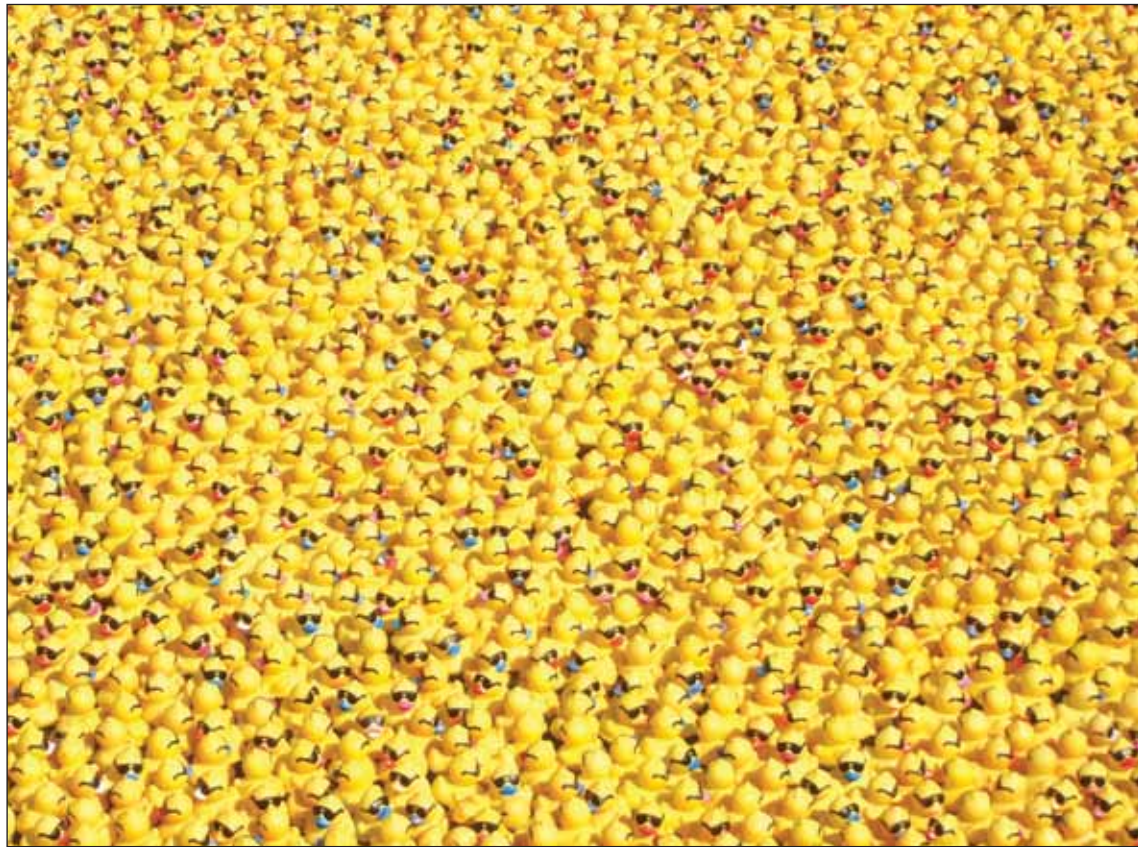
- Danville Town Council votes to increase storm water utility assessment fees by \$2.50 a year to comply with increasingly strict clean water requirements.
- Charlotte Wood Middle School community goes on alert when mountain lion is spotted near Osage Park.
- Members of the Alamo Beautification Advisory Committee tag trees with names of donors from the Boulevard of Trees Project, which planted 800 trees between 1987 and 2005 to revitalize Danville Boulevard.

MAY

- County Library Reading Festival features Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea," at the Danville Library and at Community Presbyterian Church.
- Danville Planning Commission gives go-ahead to Elworthy Ranch Project to build 84 single-family homes and a 12-unit apartment on 12 acres of the 459-acre property. The plan includes 24 acres for mitigation, 182 acres as a scenic easement, and 200 acres for the East Bay Regional Park District.
- Hundreds of resident show up in 100-degree-plus temperatures to meet Barbara Walters and buy her book, "Audition, a Memoir," at Rakestraw Books.
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District announces Steven Enoch has been selected as the new superintendent, to replace Rob Kessler who is retiring after 13 years at the helm.
- San Ramon Valley Education Foundation hands out \$70,000 in grant funds, fulfilling 70 grant requests.
- Danville resident Elm Battersby appears at a Danville Town Council meeting to say the town needs a poet laureate.
- East Bay Municipal Water District implements water rationing after two consecutive dry years.
- Danville Town Council sees a plan exploring the feasibility of a bridge for the Iron Horse Trail to cross over Sycamore Valley Road.
- Danville resident Madison White, 13, qualifies for the U.S. Olympic trials in backstroke.

JUNE

- June 3 election sees narrow defeat of Measure D parcel tax for the school district; Supervisor Mary N. Piepho is re-elected to represent District 3; and 15th Assembly District race is narrowed down to Democrat Joan Buchanan and Republican Abram Wilson.
- Danville Community Band presents a Father's Day concert, "That's Entertainment!" at the Leshner Center for the Arts.
- Danville passes \$25.8 million budget for 2008-09.
- Developer Tom Baldacci of Castle Companies proposes plans for the Danville Hotel property that would include a three-story structure and underground parking.
- "Wigged Out" gives its final campy performance after a 15-year run when its venue, Victoria's Hair On Stage, is sold.
- Alamo Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Mary Dietler, who was chosen as 2008-09 Teacher of the Year by the San Ramon Valley



Danville hosts Rubber Ducky Derby: Rubber duckies don their shades to participate in the annual Rubber Ducky Derby in July, which was held for the first time in Danville, at Oak Hill Park. This year's event raised \$100,000 to benefit Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

Unified School District, is named one of the three finalists in Contra Costa County.

• Kyle and Garrett Weiss and other members of FUNDaFIELD travel to South Africa to play on the soccer fields made possible by their organization.

JULY

- Huge party is held July 3-4 in downtown Danville to celebrate the town's sesquicentennial and the 50th anniversary of Hay Days, precursor to the popular Fourth of July Parade. Celebrations are organized by the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley; the Town of Danville; and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.
- Blackhawk Plaza kicks off its summer concert series with its extensive revamping almost completed.
- For the first time, Monte Vista High School is the site for Relay for Life, an annual worldwide fundraiser put on by the American Cancer Society.
- The San Ramon Valley has hazy days caused by the more than 150 fires burning in Northern California.
- Alamo's Bryan Ranch votes to keep roofing rules that mandate shake shingles or tile, which some claim is putting aesthetics over safety.
- Danville resident Richard Price is named the new fire chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to replace retiring Chief Craig Bowen.
- Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis conducted for the Local Agency Formation Commission says a town of Alamo would have sufficient revenue and reserves to sustain the current level of service.
- U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D, 11th) holds a conference call with 2,300 constituents.
- Rubber Ducky Derby held in

Danville for the first time at Oak Hill Park raises \$100,000 for Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

• Danville trainer Derek Gallup leads a group of trainers to Beijing to help the U.S. athletes at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

• Town of Danville OKs \$30,000 for Web site to promote shopping in Danville.

AUGUST

- Danville's Nate Schierholtz wins a bronze medal with the U.S. Olympic baseball team.
- Town of Danville tightens its ordi-



News icon helps Pack Foundation: Robert Pack thanks TV news icon Dan Rather for donating his time to work on "Graduation Day," a reality-style film that tells the story of a tragic drunken driving accident.

nance to protect its ridgelines.

• Danville Realtor Marianne Borgogna throws her hat into ring to run for Town Council along with incumbents Candace Andersen, Newell Arnerich and Mike Doyle.

• Museum of the San Ramon Valley sets up real voting booth in its exhibit of "We the People, a Century of Political History in the Valley, 1900-2000," so children can cast a ballot—for their favorite ice cream.

• Alamo Merchants Association changes its name to Alamo Chamber of Commerce so people will more

easily understand its mission.

- Stewards of the San Ramon Creek, with founder Linda Ballentine, holds its first creek cleanup.
- YMCA CEO Michael Erwin says work is ready to get under way on preliminary infrastructure needed for the new facility on the Alamo/Danville border, which signals the beginning of the end of the capital campaign.

SEPTEMBER

- New Rose Garden shopping center opens at southeast corner of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon.
- Joint session of Danville Town Council, Planning Commission and Design Review board has long discussion on building heights and design standards for downtown as a follow-up to a study session in July.
- Town of Danville takes over ownership of the Veterans Memorial Building from Contra Costa County.
- Danville forms Vets Hall steering committee to oversee planning and architectural design for its remodeling/rebuilding.
- Local Agency Formation Commission votes in favor of putting Alamo incorporation on the ballot.

OCTOBER

- Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., 15th) sponsors bill on cyberstalking with Monte Vista High School girl testifying about her experiences.
- Alamo resident Chia-Chia Chen spearheads first Senior Volunteer Awards to thank older folks county-wide for their efforts and to inspire others to volunteer.
- Town of Danville holds study session to discuss how to beautify north end of Hartz Avneue.
- Montair Elementary School celebrates 50th anniversary.
- San Ramon Valley Education Foundation holds its Primo's Run

for Education for the 25th year.

- Community is divided over California Proposition 8, which would amend the state Constitution to add, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."
- Danville police warn of ongoing scams, especially aimed at older people.
- A routine traffic stop results in arrests of two teenagers on prostitution charges in Danville; police say they could lead to further charges in what may be an Internet prostitution operation.
- Alamo resident John Fraser grows a 712-pound pumpkin, which he displays at Faz restaurant in Danville.

NOVEMBER

- Election is held Nov. 4. U.S. Sen. Barack Obama is elected president of the United States. Locally, Alamo resident Democrat Joan Buchanan is elected to state Assembly District 15 over San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson; Danville incumbents Candace Andersen, Newell Arnerich and Mike Doyle are re-elected to Town Council; Proposition 8 passes.
- School board decides to seek a renewal of the parcel tax gain, after the narrow failure of Measure D in the spring.
- Alamo Incorporation Movement hosts presentation on running for Town Council positions in the March 3 election, when incorporation will be voted on.
- Danville installs wireless Internet at the library, on the Town Green and in town offices.
- San Ramon Valley High School varsity football team beats Monte Vista High School, 26-7, in the annual cross-town rivalry, which draws 8,000 fans to the Mustang stadium.
- Alamo resident Scott W. Hugo, 22, is named a Rhodes Scholar. He is the son of Greg and Pam Hugo, and a 2005 graduate of De La Salle High School.
- Town of Danville OKs 4 percent rate increase of removal of solid waste and recycling, bringing average cost from \$16.35 per month to \$17.
- San Ramon Valley High School seniors Angela Accomazzo and Amanda Calamoneri launch a line of T-shirts to benefit nonprofit groups and to help save the world.

DECEMBER

- Newell Arnerich is installed as the new mayor in Danville. Outgoing Mayor Candace Andersen is recognized for her successful year.
- Danville's new poet laureate Nancy Frazee makes her debut at the annual Mayoral Installation and Community Service Awards.
- Alamo Chamber of Commerce names Remax Realtor Joe Combs as Business Person of the Year at the Alamo Tree Lighting Festival.
- Danville Community Band Director Larry Anderson retires from the position although he and his wife Jan, who has been business manager and publicity director, are elected to the band's board of directors.
- Danville area suffers through freezing temperatures in part of December, and the economy is stormy. Nonetheless, Christmas lights decorate homes and businesses, Mount Diablo is covered with snow for a day, and everyone hopes for the best in 2009! ■

Marketplace

Danville Weekly

Painting/Wallpaper

Scott's Painting

Interior & Exterior

"Get the Personal Touch"

Mention this ad
and save 10%

Protect your home for the Winter.
Freshen up your home
for the holidays.

Scott Smiley (925) 918-1874

Licensed Bonded & Insured
Lic# 505856



We specialize in refinishing Kitchen Cabinets,
Custom Finish Restoration & Re-Painting
Interior & Exterior

(925) 642-8432 • (510) 886-4043

Daniel Aguilar, owner • State Lic #820022

Accounting/Bookkeeping

NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?

No job too big or too small!!!
Over 23 years' experience
in all aspects of bookkeeping.

Call Linda 925.918.2233

Financial Problems?
Can't get a loan?
Leave it to us!!

Call

1-877-533-8979 (24 hours)

Apply online @

ajspeteronfinancial.com

Computers

Computer Help Tri-Valley PC MEDIC

2007-08 Pleasanton Weekly
"Best Computer Repair"

2006 Diablo Magazine
"Best of the East Bay"

Ken Cook

"I Make House Calls!"

Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training

More info/rates: www.trivalleypcmedic.com

M-F 8a-8p / Wknds & Hols 9a-6p

Lic #011068 - PCC, PDA & BBB

Call 485-9040 or 989-7722

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Chris Hopper Computers

Small Business and Home Users

Day, Evening, & Weekend Appointments

(925) 846-7845

ChrisHopperComputers.com

Lic #050693

General Contracting

TheCabinetMD.com

Cabinet

Modifications/Enlargements
for HD TVs, Appliances and
All Interior Woodwork

925-827-1093

Professional Home Maintenance & Repair

Qualified Tradesman
at Your Service

925.216.8163
Pleasanton

General Contractor #805208

General Contracting



LET OUR WORKER BEEZ Do It For You!

Commercial/Residential

• Repairs • Installation

• Restoration • Tenant

• Assembly • Improvements

Receive \$25 off
Service of \$250
or more for 1st time
customers

(925) 846-0400

www.HoneyDoHandypersons.com

LIC# 922264

REAL ESTATE



Mike Fracisco

REALTOR®

Fracisco Realty & Investments

Residential, Commercial

& Property Management

direct: 925-998-8131

www.MikeFracisco.com



Tony Leavens

REALTOR®

Hometown

GMAC Real

Estate

direct: 925-426-3886

cell: 925-487-1427

e-mail: mrtonyleavens@msn.com

www.tonyleavens.com

Mortgage Stressing You Out?

Call Joanna Jensen Realtor®

925.699.5041

Everything Real Estate

• Loan Modifications

• Short Sale

• Negotiations

• Refinance

CalBay Realty

Pet Care/Grooming/Training



Furry Friends

Pet Sitting Services

Trained professional, daily visits,
basic home care, reliable & caring.

Call Monika Harris 417-0424

Registered Veterinary Nurse www.furryfriends.tv

Accommodating
Healthy and Special
Needs Pets

Danville WEEKLY

Is Business Down? Need new customers?

Our loyal readers want to
know about your business.

For Market Place Ads Contact Art

(925) 600-0840 x112

agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com

Kids' Stuff



A children's drawing class in Pleasanton

Wednesday 4 PM to 5 PM

Saturday 9 AM to 10 AM

Please visit www.drawwithmanbi.com

fogster.com THE TRI-VALLEY'S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEB SITE

Fogster.com offers FREE* postings online and the opportunity for your ad to appear in print to more than 80,000 readers. You can log on to fogster.com 24/7, and your online ad starts immediately.

TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO **FOGSTER.COM**

*Some ads require payment. Home Services and Mind & Body ads require contact with the customer service representative at 925-600-0840, Ext. 112.



115 Announcements

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)

WRITERS WANTED

The Academy for Alternative Journalism,
established by papers like this one
to promote diversity in the alternative
press, seeks talented journalists
and students (college seniors and up)
for a paid summer writing program at
Northwestern University's Medill School
of Journalism. The eight-week
program (June 21 - Aug. 16, 2009)
aims to recruit talented candidates from
diverse backgrounds and train them in
alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten
participants will be chosen and paid
\$3,000 plus housing and travel
allowances. For information and an
application visit
<http://altjournalism.org>. You may also
email us at
altacademy@northwestern.edu.
Applications must be
postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009.
Northwestern University is an equal
opportunity employer and educator.
(AAN CAN)

PARTY PALMIST

925-249-9154

www.partypalmist2.com

Fibromyalgia/Stress/Pain BLR MFT
Justice for Lucky and Choctaw
Livermore Lioness Club

130 Classes & Instruction

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
Fast, Affordable & Accredited
FREE Brochure. Call NOW!
1-800-532-6546 Ext. 97 <http://www.continentalacademy.com> (AAN CAN)

MASTER OF FINE ARTS
in TV Production / Master of Science in
Media Studies in New York City.
Visit <http://www.bctvr.org> (AAN CAN)



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

PALMISTRY CLASSES
www.palmistryschool.com, www.par-typalmist2.com 925 2499154

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

135 Group Activities

"GIRLS NIGHT IN"
Christmas Singles Party
CLUTTERLess (CL) Self Help Group
FREE CROSSFIT CLASSES
Single Cougars Party

140 Lost & Found

Lost Cockatiel-Reward
Lost in Division St/St Mary's St area
of Pleasanton. Gray with white head.
Answers to name 'Puffer'. Please call
925-846-6423 or 925-846-1641.
Reward.

Lost Dog

Lost, Chesapeake bay Retriever, male,
dark brown, 100 lbs. Lost in south
Pleasanton area 12-11-08. Feared stol-
en. 925-461-1696



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 & Support!
Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy &
Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615.
(Cal-SCAN)

Honda 92 Accord
Police Impounds! For listings 800-749-
4260 xN278

Pace Arrow 1989 Motor Home -
\$13,000

210 Garage/Estate Sales

East Bay, Auction - Estate Clean Out,
Open Dates

Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24
7-12

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Beatles Record - \$500

Ed Hardy Custom Sunglasses -
\$150.00

Royal Doulton figurine - \$50

U.S. Mint Proof Sets

I Have All 50 Quarters, 99 Thru 08, Total
109 Coins, \$1,000. Jim-925-484-2550

220 Computers/ Electronics

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 foyer Light - \$25.00

Bunk Bed

Wood bunk bed with ladder. Ideal for kids
and sleepovers.

Maple Dining Table & Chairs - \$ 300

245 Miscellaneous

Chain Saw, Air Hockey

Chain saw, new, Craftsman 14in gas, \$50.

Air Hockey 80x40", \$50.

Skid board \$40. 925-820-8838

Electric Toy Trains - \$20

GIFT PACKS AND RED WORMS - \$25.00

Jazzy Power Chair XL - \$1,650

Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING -
\$25.00

Scrapbooks

250 Musical Instruments

Acoustic Guitar - \$60

fogster.com

fogster.com





330 Child Care Offered

Loving Childcare
Licensed daycare in Pleasanton for babies-preschool age. Experienced pre-school teacher. Melissa (925)963-7097

345 Tutoring/Lessons

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

355 Items for Sale

Lionel Trains for Xmas



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



550 Business Opportunities

100% Recession Proof
Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? Your Own Local Vending Route Includes 25 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

EARN \$75 - \$200 HOUR
Media Makeup Artist Training. Ads, TV, Film, Fashion. One week class. Stable job in weak economy. Details at <http://www.MediaMakeupArtists.com> 310-364-0665 (AAN CAN)

fogster.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
West Coast Regional NEW HIRING AREA. Newest equipment on the road. Competitive Pay. Run the Western 11 States On Site - Full Service Maintenance Shop. Reasonable Home Time. Western Express - 22 yrs. old. Good MVR, EOE, CDL-A, 1 yr. OTR. Call Edna Today! 1-866-863-4112. (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 - ASAP!
Sign-On Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly. Excellent Benefits. Need CDL-A & 3 months recent OTR. 1-877-258-8782. www.MeltonTruck.com (Cal-SCAN)

MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED!!
All looks and ages wanted. No experience necessary. Part-Time Income \$150.00 - \$300.00 p/day. CALL NOW!
1-888-268-5474 x 401 (AAN CAN)

Travel-Work-Party-Play
50 States. National company now hiring 18+ sharp guys & gals to work & travel entire USA. 2wks paid training, transportation & lodging furnished. Paid daily. Returns guaranteed. Call Today Start Today. 1-888-741-2190. (Cal-SCAN)



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-SCAN.com (Cal-SCAN)

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



715 Cleaning Services

Andrea's Cleaning
Trustworthy, Prof., Reliable, Affordable. Ref's avail.
14yrs exp
925-339-2461

Bring in new business for the Holidays.

Danville WEEKLY

Call Art about Marketplace Advertising
(925) 600-0840 x112
agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com

Convenient Cleaning

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

Rick's Tooltime

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

792 Pool Services

The Pool Chicks



805 Homes for Rent

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2100

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 - 600.00/Mon

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$145000

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA
\$132,500 Mobile home in Mtn View, built 2001. 1100 sf, large kitchen, lots of windows. Near downtown. Low space rent of \$577/month. For info: Peter Lee, Keller Williams Palo Alto, at 650-454-8518.

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

20 Acre Ranches
Near Booming El Paso, Texas. (#1 Growth State!) \$15,900. \$200/down, \$159/month. Roads, Views. Owner Financing. Free Maps/Pictures. No Credit Checks. 1-800-343-9444. (10%/209 mths) (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Foreclosure
40 ACRES \$29,900. Outstanding Views. Access to BLM Canyon Rec Land. Financing. Call 1-866-696-5263 x4843. (Cal-SCAN)

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

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Marley, meet Sullivan

Meet Sullivan, an adult, neutered male yellow Labrador Retriever mix who is approximately 3 years old and thinks he's a lap dog. Look at that happy face! Sullivan is a friendly fellow, and like his famous friend Marley, he would benefit from some dog training. TVAR volunteers say Sullivan keeps his kennel clean so he may be housetrained. Sullivan would probably be best for a family with older children as he may knock small children down when he gets excited. Sullivan loves to go for walks and he may just be a fun companion for another compatible dog. TVAR volunteers learn more each day about the shelter dogs they take out for walks and play sessions. They think Sullivan (pet # 82788) is pretty special! We invite you to visit him 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.



Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville Real Estate: 'Near End Review'

With almost the full year of 2008 behind us, as of Dec. 20, 2008, we wanted to examine this year's data for each of our important markets, including Alamo, Blackhawk and Danville. This "Near End" review will be limited to single family homes sold between Jan. 1 and Dec. 20 for both 2007 and 2008. Homes that transferred hands without a reported purchase price are included in the unit sales counts but are excluded from statistical analysis.

There are currently 221 single family homes listed as active pending and sold in Alamo. Ninety-one single family homes are listed as active and, encouragingly, 14 are listed as pending. Significantly fewer Alamo single family homes sold in 2008 than sold in the same time period in 2007. One hundred sixty-nine homes sold in 2007 compared to 116 in 2008 for a -31 percent decline in unit sales. Average sales price shows a much lower decline in the same year-to-year comparison dropping from \$1,685,560 in '07 to \$1,544,194 in '08. This represents a -8 percent price decline. Price paid per square foot followed suit, dropping from \$506 in '07 to \$465 in the same time period matching the average price decline of -8 percent. Alamo's current median price for sold listings stands at \$1,340,995.

There are currently 125 single family homes listed as active pending and sold in Blackhawk. Fifty-nine are listed as active, and four are pending sale. Unit sales in Blackhawk declined from 88 sold in 2007 to 62 sold in 2008 for a -29 percent drop in unit sales. Average price declined significantly in 2008 slipping from \$1,561,932 in 2007 to \$1,375,189 in 2008 for a -12 percent average price decline. Average price paid per square foot for a Blackhawk home dropped

Homes Today



BY JOE COMBS

from \$441 to \$394 per square foot from '07 to '08 for a -11 percent decline. Blackhawks' current median price for sold listings stands at \$1,182,500, about 12 percent below Alamo's current median price.

Unit sales of homes in Danville decreased most significantly from 450 in 2007 to 192 in '08 for a dramatic -57 percent and by far the largest percent decline in unit sales. Interestingly, average price declines were notably less for Danville than for either the Alamo or Blackhawk markets. Average price declined -7 percent, falling from \$1,141,668 in 2007 to \$1,030,594 in 2008. Price paid per square foot declined from \$430 paid per square foot in 2007 to \$375 per square foot in 2008 for -13 percent drop in price. The 25 current pending sales are listed at \$345 per square foot, suggesting further price erosion. Danville's current median price for sold listings stands at \$815,000.

I think it is fair to say that 2008 has not been a great year for real estate investments. Perhaps we are not falling as fast or as far as other markets have, however, we have indeed fallen. Unfortunately, the data is not a crystal ball into the future and the question remains, "Are we at the bottom or will we see further declines in price in the months ahead?" Please keep reading our column and we will find out together.

If you would like to receive a copy of our "Near End Review" including the raw data, please e-mail joecombs@thecombsteam.com; include "Near End" in the subject line.

Data presented in this column is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Contra Costa and Alameda Multiple Listing Service and other quoted sources.

Joe and Nancy Combs, Remax and the MLS Service do not guarantee the accuracy of this information.

Single Family Detached Home Sales thru Dec. 20, 2008

	Alamo	Blackhawk	Danville
Unit Sales 2007	169	88	450
Unit Sales 2008	116	62	192
% Change	-31%	-29%	-57%
Average Price 2007	\$ 1,685,560	\$ 1,561,932	\$ 1,141,868
Average Price 2008	\$ 1,544,194	\$ 1,375,189	\$ 1,030,594
% Change	-8%	-12%	-7%
\$ Per Sq. Ft. 2007	\$ 506	\$ 441	\$ 430
\$ Per Sq. Ft. 2008	\$ 465	\$ 394	\$ 375
% Change	-8%	-11%	-13%

Danville
WEEKLY.COM

To list your open home
please contact Tracey Fordahl at
(925) 837-8300, ext. 130 or e-mail:
OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2008

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 4	Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$550,000	Lowest sale reported: \$521,000	Lowest sale reported: \$296,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,480,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,465,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,169,000
Average sales reported: \$1,075,000	Average sales reported: \$1,023,500	Average sales reported: \$705,779

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2008

Alamo

1640 Cervato Circle K. Slifer to K. Schierholtz for \$1,195,000
2845 Litina Court T. Deputy to R. & C. Gantt for \$550,000
57 Tam O Shanter Road R. & J. Thompson to B. & R. Hodges for \$1,480,000

Danville

1211 Brookside Drive R. & S. Pinkston to P. Soupir for \$788,000

677 Glen Road Phillips Trust to W. Moore for \$1,320,000

184 Tweed Drive Reschke Trust to E. Wheelock for \$521,000

2410 White Oak Place J. & M. Almgren to K. Erickson for \$1,465,000

Walnut Creek

2409 Casa Way G. & S. Kurz to S. Stepper for \$495,000

510 Dover Drive Haium Trust to K. & K. Gray for \$743,000

3580 Eris Court Gruder Trust to M. Sadeghi for \$820,000

5 Iris Lane T. Liu to R. & T. Johnson for \$1,169,000

138 Molly Way R. & T. Johnson to J. & M. Ohearn for \$750,000

7 San Benito Court J. Brodie to R. & R. Clark for \$705,000

1004 San Souci D. Lafailk to J. Elia for \$296,000

1434 Via Loma Rogers Trust to P. & J. Manaut for \$574,000

754 Wimbledon Road Ray Trust to C. & M. Mielcarski for \$800,000

The Combs Team .com

www.



Nancy P. Combs

Professionals You Can
Count on!

Call Joe and Nancy
925-989-6086

Visit www.thecombsteam.com



Joe Combs

24 Hour Free Audio Tour (866) 374-0607

Wendt Ranch Open Space and View

X7000



Highly upgraded 4 bedroom 4.5 bath.
Large guest suite and bonus room.
\$1,300,000

West Side Alamo 5 Bedroom

9000



Situated on a flat .49 acre lot, with 4297 sq.ft. Tuscan Beauty was built in 2003. All the bells and whistles. \$1,698,888

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

Round Hill on Golf Course

10000



Marvelous 5 Bedroom home with large play yard and Swimming Pool. \$1,775,000

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





He's here because we're here.

Jerry Bishop, former cardiac bypass surgery patient

One-time teacher, full-time grandpa and part-time Santa, Jerry Bishop is back sorting out who's been naughty or nice. The heart surgeons, cardiologists and cardiac care team at San Ramon Regional Medical Center have put a glow back in Santa's cheeks.

As always, from everyone here at your hospital, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a very healthy New Year.



6001 Norris Canyon Road - 925.275.8221
www.sanramonmedctr.com

This testimonial reflects results achieved by this patient. As each case is different and must be independently evaluated and managed, actual results will vary.