

Learning survival skills

Athenian wilderness trip teaches life lessons

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Junction box wires cut

Television and Internet disabled temporarily

► page 6

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Danville

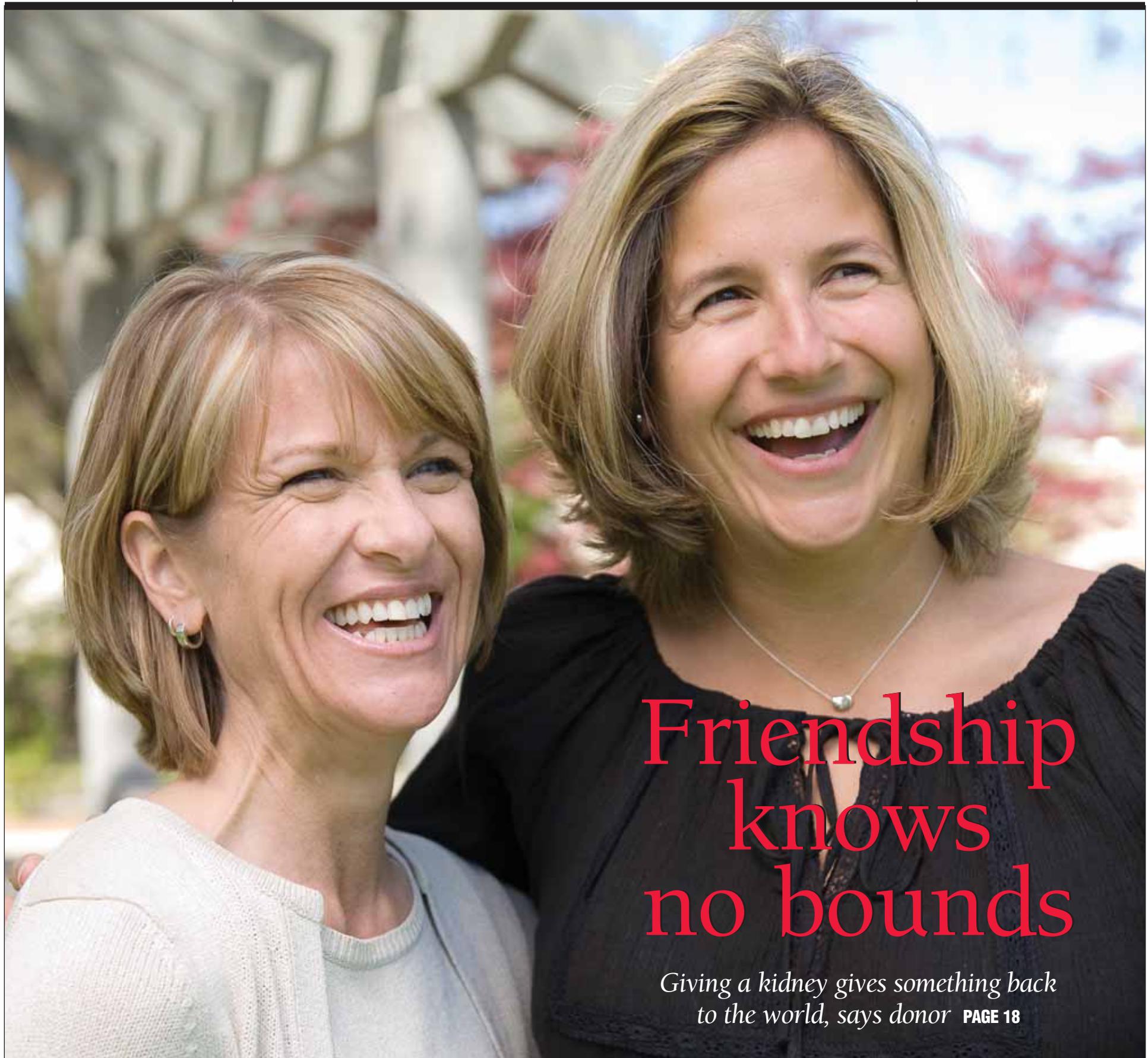
W E E K L Y

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

Plan chosen for Vets Hall

Architects going to work on final design

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Friendship knows no bounds

*Giving a kidney gives something back
to the world, says donor* **PAGE 18**

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Q: What's your favorite Bay Area "stay-cation"?



Santa Cruz. We go in the morning as a mothers-and-daughters trip every year. We are all acquainted through soccer. My daughter, Hailey, and her soccer friends look forward to the beach (with boy-watching), the boardwalk rides and the clam chowder. Moms look forward to kids playing on the beach all day while they talk over Margaritas. Going home, the kids sleep.

Danielle Landman
sales and event planning



Head to S.F. for the day, beginning with the "ah-ha" moment coming through the Caldecott Tunnel on a crystal clear day, looking at the city and the G.G. Bridge. I get energized walking around the city with its hustle and bustle, then going to the theater and dinner afterward.

Katrina Watson
job seeker



My husband and I love to go out to the beach and check out the ocean, especially during a storm when the waves are the biggest. Then we go to the S.F. Zoo to see exhibits and all the animals. We really like the primate exhibits and large cats. Then we go to dinner at our favorite spot before heading home.

Joan Leonard
consultant



I'm a hiking fool and love to go to Mount Diablo. Why not? It's the closest "stay-cation" around. It's the nearest place to get a far away feeling.

Brad Crooker
designer



We like to go to Carmel or Monterey for a day trip and walk through downtown and the beach. I usually hang out around watch shops and smoke fine cigars, while my wife, Ramina, steals my credit cards and goes shopping.

Tom Nassayan
software developer

COMPILED BY STAN WHARTON

ABOUT THE COVER

Feeling great again—Maxine Moir Furringer (left) received a kidney in late December from Tanya Lombardi, a friend she met a few years ago through her book group. Photo by Jen Good.

Vol. IV, Number 50

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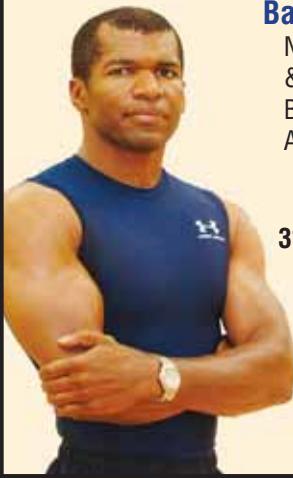
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The Weekly wants photos of mother-daughter look-alikes.

Mothers and daughters can be so much alike in mannerisms, personality, thoughts and, of course, appearance. With Mother's Day coming right up, the Danville Weekly is holding its second Mother-Daughter Look-Alike contest.

If you think you and your daughter could be twins, send a digital photo to gallen@danvilleweekly.com by Monday, April 20. Photos can be color or black and white, need to be in JPG format, at least 300 dpi and no larger than 1 MB. Photos entered for previous contests are not eligible; only digital photos will be accepted.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, and readers will be able to vote on which mother and daughter in the Danville area look most alike. First-place prize is a gift certificate for Bridges restaurant; second-place prize is a gift certificate to Strizzi's.

Two of a kind IMO of a kind

Photos of the 2009 winners will be published in the May 8 edition of the Danville Weekly.



Danville
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NEWS FRONT

NEWS DIGEST

SRV grad dies in Long Beach shooting

Police in Long Beach are investigating the April 9 fatal shooting of a 21-year-old Danville man.

Police officials said the incident occurred at 9:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Orange Avenue. Responding to a call reporting shots fired, officers found Scott Brandon Miller-Dowd, 21, lying on the ground bleeding from multiple gunshot wounds.

Paramedics were called to the scene and transported the man to the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center where he later died of his injuries.

Police say they have no motive so far in the shooting and a vague description of the shooter as a male. Officials said the investigation is continuing.

Miller-Dowd was a 2007 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School.

Measure C ballots have been mailed

Residents who live within the San Ramon Valley Unified School District should have received ballots in the mail for the May 5 Measure C Parcel Tax election. The ballot asks residents to OK a \$144 per year parcel tax to fund education efforts in the district.

Contra Costa County Clerk Steve Weir confirmed that as of this week, 81,291 ballots had been mailed out to residents. That includes some instances where a second ballot was requested due to loss or destruction of the ballot.

Any person who has not yet received a ballot should call the Elections Office at 335-7800 to have a replacement ballot issued. Weir is recommending that voters fill out their ballots and return them as soon as possible. In order to be certain that they are

counted on May 5, Weir suggests ballots be in the mail no later than Friday, May 1.

Anyone who misses that May 1 deadline will have one other chance to be certain that their votes are counted, as two drop-off locations will be open throughout the day on May 5. The two drop-offs will be at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo and San Ramon Valley Conference Center at 3301 Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon. Ballots will be accepted between the hours of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Calling attention to child abuse

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Day tomorrow, April 18, the Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley will be having a two-hour event in the Danville area. From 10 a.m.-noon, club members will pass out awareness information at Lunardi's in Danville, at the farmers market and at the Safeway in Blackhawk.

Personnel from the San Ramon Fire Protection District and the Danville Police Department will be there; children can be fingerprinted at the event.

Helmet checks planned Saturday

As part of a state grant, Danville police will be out in force Saturday enforcing the helmet law for young bicyclists.

Lt. Mark Williams said officers on patrol will stop cyclists without helmets and give them cards with information on the helmet law.

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Danville welcomes home (l-r) U.S. Marine Sgt. Nicholas Parks, Lance Cpl. Kameron Klotz, Lance Cpl. Keith Erickson Hughes and Lance Cpl. Sean Conklin.

Welcoming home a few good men

by Geoff Gillette

Neither gray skies nor the threat of rain was able to keep more than 100 Danville residents from lining up outside the town Meeting Hall on April 7 to welcome home four U.S. Marines returning from Iraq. Known as "Operation Welcome Home," the event is put on through the auspices of the Town of Danville, area veterans groups and the Lafayette Flag Brigade.

This was the second such event in the past two months, and resi-

dents and veterans turned out to welcome home Sgt. Nicholas Parks, Lance Cpl. Sean Conklin, Lance Cpl. Kameron Klotz and Lance Cpl. Keith Erickson Hughes. Mayor Newell Arnerich praised the four young men for their dedication to duty and their service to their country. He also offered the traditional marine greeting of "Hooaa." He humorously added, "My son always tells me I do it wrong." He presented each of the Marines with a proclamation lauding them for their service.

Presentations were also made by

the Blue Star Moms, Operation Sam, the Legion Riders and the Patriot Guard. U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D, 11th) briefly addressed the men, congratulating them on their service and pointing out the strong showing of support from the people of Danville. "Is this a patriotic community or what?" he shouted.

The welcome celebration included songs by local singer Diana Nagy and an honor guard made up of members of the Junior ROTC program at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord. ■

New life for deteriorating icon

Pioneer Gallery moving into former Danville Hotel Restaurant

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The Pioneer Art Gallery has found a new home—the iconic red-and-white former Danville Hotel Restaurant that more recently housed Celia's Mexican Restaurant.

The gallery, run by the Alamo Danville Artists' Society, was housed for the last year and a half at 524 Hartz Ave., courtesy of Brad Blake of BNP Ventures, who is planning to tear it down and build a new retail development.

The artists still have workspace upstairs in that location but Rakestraw Books relocated recently to the former gallery space on the ground floor.

Last week Tom Baldacci of Castle Companies & Danville Hotel Holding contracted a lease with the artists for the old Danville Hotel and Saloon building, said Tracy Bauer, ADAS spokeswoman.

"This space has many more exterior and interior improvements needed than our previous gallery location had started with, so we're bracing for more time and costs before we can hang the 'open'

sign," said Bauer.

The old Danville Hotel and Saloon building is about 5,300 square feet. Pioneer Art Gallery Executive Director Stephen Sanfilippo, a plein air artist, did a walk-through inspection Monday with Danville building inspector Mike Leontiades and principal planner Dave Crompton.

"They further assured us that subsequent visits and permit reviews would be expedited as a high priority," said Bauer. "The town really wants us to succeed; they appreciate the short-term life of the building, that we are a small nonprofit, and that this project has already proven itself to be a valuable asset to the downtown experience."

Baldacci's redevelopment plans for the downtown Danville Hotel complex, which spans from Railroad Avenue to Hartz, have been in the design stage for several years.

"Sadly, the delays have left these vacant buildings to decline," noted Bauer. "The iconic, red-and-white Danville Hotel and Saloon building is now a particularly confusing

patch of urban blight for residents and visitors.

"ADAS is proud to be able to ensure that this charming landmark will have a final chance to serve our community, and that it does not get forgotten in our local history."

Sanfilippo is planning to continue and improve upon the programs the community enjoyed before, such as the exhibits, art education, live music jams and student art shows.

Bauer also noted that ADAS is hoping for donations from the community to help it get the new gallery up and running.

"Our most immediate needs for the building rehab include roofing, painting and lighting (materials and labor). Looking ahead to day-to-day operations, we would be grateful for donations of a used laptop and printer, DSL+phone service, folding chairs/tables, bar-height stools, track lights (we dream of energy-efficient LED bulbs!) and a few sofas," she said.

ADAS has created a Web site to keep people informed about this latest venture: www.PioneerArtGallery.com. ■

Committee chooses plan for Vets Hall

Veterans will have both floors at front of building

by Geoff Gillette

Architects will be moving forward with the design and planning for the renovation and expansion of the Veteran's Hall in downtown Danville, after the Veterans Building Steering Committee approved a preliminary plan Monday.

Over the past several weeks, the committee has looked at four different plans for the historic structure, all designed to accommodate not just the veterans but also the town's senior programs and rental uses such as weddings and classes.

At its April 13 meeting, the committee needed to make a choice between Schemes A and D. Scheme D is the plan the veterans asked for that would put all of their offices and facilities solely on the second floor of the building. The seniors would have areas on the first floor as well as some storage.

Scheme A split the veterans rooms between the first and sec-

ond floor and housed the group in the front of the hall, facing out to Hartz Avenue. The seniors would have an entrance and a promenade on Prospect Avenue with their programs being in the rear of the building. Both uses would be connected by the main hall, which could be used by both groups or rented out for events.

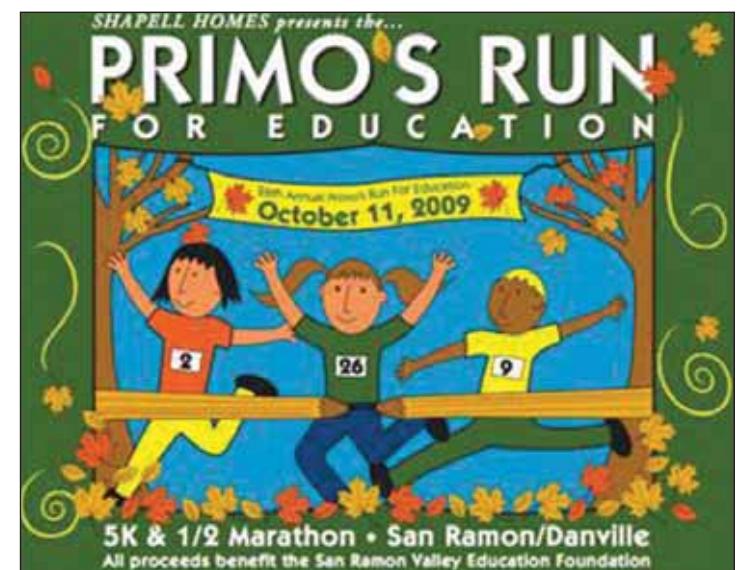
The committee deviated from its normal procedure, allowing public comment first.

Danville resident Paula Boswell spoke briefly to the committee, asking that they consider adding a military library to one of the rooms currently on the plan.

"John (Boswell's late husband) amassed a lot of books on the Pacific War. I feel that it's an absolute must for the many veterans who come through that they have reference works," she said.

Linda Stolow, a senior advo-

► Continued on page 6



Primo's Run logo chosen for 2009

12-year-old Diablo Vista student wins design contest

Diablo Vista student Hannah Kang was chosen as the winner of the student competition to design the artwork for the 2009 Primo's Run for Education logo. Hannah's design will be seen on thousands of shirts, banners, posters and other materials promoting the largest annual run in the Tri-Valley.

The logo that Hannah designed was chosen by the Primo's Run committee of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation.

"This year's logo is fresh, colorful and fun. It is a great representation of everything the run is

about," said Vanessa Chan, executive director for the Foundation. "There is so much artistic talent in our schools and the Foundation is always excited to tap into it."

Hannah currently takes art lessons and said she would love to eventually be an artist.

"I always wanted to design a logo but wasn't sure how to get started," said the 12-year old. "The Primo's logo contest was a great opportunity."

For her winning entry, Hannah will receive \$100, and the art department at Diablo Vista Middle School will receive \$150. ■

Vets Hall

► Continued from page 5

cate, called on the committee and the architects to spend more time examining the kitchen size. She said she had done some research on the kitchens used by other senior centers and felt that information might be useful in planning.

"I just think we want to make sure there is enough kitchen space for the people they are going to be serving," she explained.

After the public hearing, committee members representing the various groups made their comments. Veterans representative John Estes started, since the veterans were the only group that had a chance to meet to discuss the two schemes prior to the Monday meeting.

He said that even though the veterans had requested scheme D, after seeing the layout they would rather stay with the A plan.

"A comment Newell (Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich) said kind of stuck with me," he said. "This is a veteran's building. The front of the building is going to be saved. The front of the building, first and second floor, is going to be for veterans."

Scott Perkins, also representing the veterans, agreed. "A clearly meets our needs better, but there are a couple of things," he stated. Perkins suggested that a pair of unisex bathrooms be added to the second floor.

He also recommended that the porches envisioned for the Hartz Avenue side be raised above ground level. "You want it to be unintrusive but you want it to project out," he explained.

Representatives of the seniors and other community groups agreed that Scheme A held the most promise and asked that the restroom and kitchen situations be looked at as well.

Town Councilwoman Candace Andersen applauded the choice of Scheme A.

"I love the idea of the library, and I'm delighted that the veterans get to keep the original space," she enthused.

Architects ARG took the floor at that point and discussed the issues being raised and how best to deal with them. Architect Phil Rossetti sketched out some preliminary plans of how they might incorporate the requests being made regarding the bathrooms and the kitchen size.

"I think the crux is we have limitations in budget, land and boundaries," he said. "Every time we push the boundaries of the community hall we push the boundaries of the bathrooms, kitchen. What we're looking for is a way to proportionately come to a happy place."

Rossetti said that as they try to adapt the design to the specific requests of the committee it is likely that the main hall will lose some square footage. The current main hall has 2,200 square feet, the new plan has 2,800 square feet, and Rossetti said that in order to provide the changes they may have to drop it down by 100-200 square feet.

ARG Principal Naomi Miroglio added that the architects are looking for the committee to confirm that it is understood that program space may be reduced in order to increase non-program areas. "We need to know we're not throwing the baby out with the bath water," she said.

Mayor Arnerich said he believes they are all on the same page and he is confident that when ARG brings back the plans for the proposed Veterans Hall it will be something that will work well for everyone involved.

With a scheme approved, Miroglio said the work will now begin in earnest. At the next Vets Hall meeting April 27, ARG will bring in consultants to meet with the committee to go over the possibilities of what can be accomplished with the given scheme and to begin work on fleshing out the preliminary design. ■



COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Museum docents Stan Wharton and Sonya Seyler portray R.O. and Mary Cox Baldwin in the fall tour of the Alamo Cemetery.

Early residents to haunt Alamo Cemetery

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley invites everyone to come and "meet" some of Danville's earliest residents who are buried at the Alamo Cemetery on its annual spring tour. Participants should gather at the front gate of the cemetery at the end of El Portal near La Gonda Way in Danville. The tour is free but donations are always welcome.

Museum docents, who enjoy researching and portraying the lives of Valley pioneers, will be there in

costume talking to visitors about the lives of their characters. Guests have the opportunity to meet Travis Boone (Nathan Greene), R.O. and Mary Cox Baldwin (Stan Wharton and Sonya Seyler), Mary Ann Jones (Carmen Curtis), Mary Wiedemann (Roxanne Lindsay), Charles Wood (Don Kurtz) and his daughter Charlotte Wood (Joan Kurtz).

For more information or to schedule adult or third-grade tours, call 837-3750. ■

Vandalism causes AT&T outages

Danville cut wires similar to San Jose incident

by Geoff Gillette

Danville police are looking for suspects in three separate incidents of vandalism involving AT&T junction boxes in town.

Sgt. Dan Hoffman said the first incident occurred April 2 at the box near the intersection of Greenbrook Drive and Paraiso Drive. The second occurrence was April 3 at the intersection of Town and Country Drive and San Ramon Valley Boulevard. The third was April 5 on Camino Tassajara and Ramon Road. In all three cases, the vandalism occurred at night, between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Hoffman said that in all three incidents, wires providing television and high speed Internet were cut but no phone lines were severed. The outages lasted an hour or two and affected a few hundred business and residential customers.

The Danville Police Department is working with AT&T security officials on the case. It is not

known if the incidents in Danville are related to a major attack in San Jose on April 9 that resulted in a massive service loss to thousands of customers. AT&T is currently offering a \$250,000 reward for information regarding the San Jose incident.

Hoffman said that they are looking at all possible angles in the case, but he did say that the boxes were not broken into and that it takes a knowledge of the junction boxes and a specialized tool to get into them without causing damage.

Using information given by AT&T security, patrol officers will be detailed to potential target sites around the area in order to give them increased protection.

Hoffman suggested that residents who see work crews near the junction boxes be mindful of whether the crews are displaying any identification. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the police immediately. Call 314-3700. ■

Danville studies downtown parking

Most people surveyed are OK with two-hour limit

by Geoff Gillette

Last fall Danville officials conducted a survey of downtown merchants and patrons to get a sense of how much parking was used compared to what may be needed. The survey was folded into a traffic study paid for by the town.

Danville Transportation Engineer Associate Andy Dillard said the survey showed that of the 2,929 spaces in downtown Danville, 54 percent were private off-street parking; 28 percent were municipal parking lots; and 18 percent was on-street parking.

"The whole idea," Dillard said, "was to get a better understanding of the parking supply and inventory in our downtown ... where they park, where they go."

Dillard said having a greater understanding of where residents are parking is key to determining if the available parking is sufficient and if the dollars spent by the town in providing these parking areas is showing a return.

The traffic study showed that the Clock Tower Parking Lot has the highest amount of use and turnover. The Front Street Lot is being used but not to the same degree.

"It's a fairly new lot," Dillard said, "so it's not completely filled up during the day."

While some expressed concerns about the two-hour time limit on parking, Dillard said opinions in the survey indicated that parking time was sufficient. He added that areas like Rose Street, on the northeast side of downtown, may be examined for longer parking times.

"There are a lot of service-oriented businesses, nail salons, hair salons; places like that require a longer stay," he explained.

One problem area according to the survey is on-street parking. On the main north-south thoroughfares, on-street parking is in short supply. Dillard said this is not entirely due to shoppers.

"Employee parking continues to be one of the biggest issues we grapple with," he said.

Fifteen percent of the available parking is set up as all-day permit parking just for employees. Dillard said many employees are taking up the on-street spots instead.

The town will be embarking on an education program to work with businesses and their employees to use the permitted spaces instead of parking on the street.

At this point, one thing that likely will not change is the fact that parking in town is free.

"As a town we feel that's a competitive advantage over other cities," Dillard said. "It's an enticing advantage to bring consumers into the downtown." ■

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Campaign sticker in Danville post office

Postal employees remove anti-parcel tax message

by Geoff Gillette

Election fervor over the upcoming May 5 Measure C parcel tax vote is rising, which may have led one person to post a bumper sticker opposing the measure inside a Danville branch of the U.S. Postal Service.

It's not known when the campaign sign was put up in the Railroad Avenue location, but the Danville Weekly learned of it early Friday afternoon.

Contra Costa County Clerk Steve Weir, whose office is overseeing the May 5 mail-in election, said that there are few local rules dictating when and where campaign signs can be placed.

"The state and localities have tried to regulate the placement of election signs but they invariably lose on Freedom of Speech," he explained.

Weir said the basic rule of



GEOFF GILLETTE

This campaign sticker was removed from the Danville post office on Railroad Avenue on April 10.

thumb is that the sign should not visually impede the public nor should they be on traffic signals or crossarms. He said that in the case of the post office, because it is a federal building, it would be up to them to police it.

"I would guess that the federal government has strict rules about electioneering," he said.

Postal officials confirmed that

having such campaign signage inside the branch is illegal. Post office sales associate Mark Willis, on being informed of the bumper sticker in the lobby, immediately took it down.

"This isn't allowed inside the post office," Willis said. "We can't put up advertisements of any kind. We can't even put up something for Primo's Run." ■

Danville examines Housing Element

Planners present updated findings to commission

by Geoff Gillette

Danville town planners are taking a look at housing throughout the area as they begin the process of updating the town's housing element, a state-mandated part of the General Plan.

Chief of Planning Kevin Gailey discussed the update with members of the Planning Commission at their March 10 meeting. The Housing Element is the part of the plan that deals with the housing needs of people from all economic strata.

The last update was from 1999-2006. The update currently underway goes from 2007 through 2014. Under the state mandate, local governments must adequately plan to meet their existing and projected housing needs, including their share of the regional housing need. This is done through the Regional Housing Needs Plan (RHNP).

Documents from the Department of Housing and Community Development say the plan should promote:

- Increasing the housing supply and mix of housing types, tenures and affordability.
- Socioeconomic equity and the protection of environmental and agricultural resources.
- Improved intra-regional relationship between jobs and housing.

Gailey said that part of doing the update to the Housing Element is providing a housing-needs assessment that takes into account both current and projected needs. The assessment is set by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), comprising 101 cities within its nine-county jurisdiction.

ABAG has determined that Danville's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) consists of 583 units, with 196 very low, 130 low,

146 moderate, and 111 above-moderate income units. In the first two years of the current cycle, 2007-2014, construction in Danville constitutes roughly 30 percent of the town's allocation for the planning period with 44 percent of the units qualifying as affordable.

The Planning Commission has held two work sessions to study the update to the Housing Element. Gailey said that in the two sessions, he has been providing background and an overview of the process.

"The Planning Commission is in a 'receive the information and ask questions' mode at this point, not so much in a 'here's our feedback and recommendations' mode," he stated.

Gailey and the Planning Commission will continue to examine the needs to be addressed in the update, and public hearings on the Housing Element will be scheduled starting in May. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Beautiful grounds

Danville residents Joe Dagna III and Denise Hallock took the Danville Weekly with them to Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, in June of last year.

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, April 5

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Town and Country at 12:19 a.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:58 a.m.
- Disturbance, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 1:37 a.m.
- Vandalism on Dunhill Dr. at 3:46 a.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on W. El Pintado Rd. at 6:37 p.m. and 6:59 p.m.

Monday, April 6

- Warrant, arrest, on Valley View Ct. at 8:18 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 10:21 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on San Carlo Ct. at 11:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7

- Accident, property damage, on Woodranch Cir. at 1:33 p.m.
- Petty theft on Freitas Rd. at 8:12 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 at 10:08 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and El Portal at 1:58 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Molitas Rd. at 8:43 a.m.
- Petty theft on Leafield Rd. at 4:07 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Linda Mesa Ave. at 5:21 p.m.

Thursday, April 9

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Carlo Ct. at 9:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Glen Hollow Rd. and Shadewell Dr. at 11:17 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:34 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Cloverbrook Dr. and Dunhill Dr. at 3:47 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Chadbourne Dr. at 6:40 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Cir. at 11:54 p.m.

Friday, April 10

- Promiscuous shooting on Mustang Dr. at 2:51 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 10:17 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Tunbridge Rd. at 6:43 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Sherburne Hills at 7:08 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Camino Ramon at 9:17 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:38 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:47 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 12:32 a.m.
- DUI, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 1:18 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:06 a.m.

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How did you get into the business?

Jim was an IT manager for Johnson and Johnson for 6 1/2 years and before that worked for Shell's IT department. He decided he was tired of working long hours for a corporation and was looking to be his own boss. Denise was



a homeworker but had once worked in the movie marketing industry. The couple decided that working with a franchise would be the best bet for them.

"Franchises are the small corporation with the big corporation strength" Jim said. That is when they found Fast-teks.

Biggest misperception about the business: "People think that it's too expensive to have a computer fixed and just decide to go out and get a new one," Aster says. "Actually, it's too expensive not to come see us." Aster said that for businesses, too much is tied up in computer systems these days, from inventory to client lists. "If a computer breaks down, the information can be lost for good." He also said that the cost may not be as high as people believe and that they should look into fixing the computer before putting down the money on a new product.

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Vote Yes on Measure C

Times are tough. We are all avoiding unnecessary expenses, but we should not consider Measure C to be discretionary. With the state budget crisis, the schools in California have had their funds cut drastically, and the San Ramon Valley district was already struggling due to an old funding formula.

Measure C renews the expiring \$90 annual parcel tax at \$144 for the next seven years. These funds would go toward "maintaining academic excellence," retaining qualified teachers, and preparing students for college and careers in a global economy with strong math, science and literacy education. In the past, parcel tax funds have been used for smaller class sizes in kindergarten through third grade and in ninth-grade English and math classes; keeping middle and high school libraries open; and counselors at the middle and high schools. Parcel tax money goes directly to the district rather than through the state.

Measure C opponents speak of squandered money but we don't see it. For every story of air-conditioning flowing out

an open door, we hear another tale about a teacher making students turn off the lights. Our school district has already cut nearly \$17 million during the last 10 years (1999-2008) due to state budget problems. Now the district is looking at reducing its budget by nearly \$10 million in just over a 17-month period, and it has sent out pink slips to 228 credentialed employees notifying them they may be laid off at the end of the school year.

Measure C, a mail-in vote, requires a two-thirds majority to pass, which is difficult since many voters nix any tax. But a parcel tax of \$144 per year is reasonable. This would cost each household \$12 a month, an increase of only \$4.50 over the expiring parcel tax. As before, residents 65 and older can apply for exemptions, although we all benefit from keeping quality in our schools. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District has a reputation that draws families; if our schools decline, so do our property values. We all will benefit from passing Measure C.

GUEST OPINIONS

Parcel tax needed

by Cynthia Moe

We are facing the worst budget shortfall for education in California's history. The budget cuts will be devastating and will directly affect children. They will force even larger class sizes and the reduction and/or elimination of many critical education programs. While we would like to hope this is a short-term problem, the reality is that it is not. We've listened to the leaders in California at both local and state levels declare the money isn't there and they don't expect additional monies, maybe even less.

California, once the fifth largest economy in the world and now eighth, invests the smallest amount in education of any state in America. Also the amount of funding from the state varies for each school district. The number of funding streams has grown over many years and some are based on local circumstances or decisions made in the 1970s or 1980s that are no longer relevant for education funding. The system results in large disparities and leaves many schools with inadequate funding.

► Continued on page 9

Revenue limit from State of California

District	\$ received per student	Parcel tax paid
Pleasanton Unified	\$6,347	\$233 (on ballot June 9)
Dublin Unified	6,650	96
Piedmont Unified	5,952	2,082
Acalanes**	6,567	189
Mt. Diablo Unified	5,753	99
West Contra Costa	5,833	7.2 cents per sq. ft.
Pittsburg Unified	5,777	65
Livermore Unified	5,780	138
SRV Unified	5,725	90 (on ballot \$144)

** High school only. Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda each have another parcel tax for their elementary schools as well.

Flunk Measure C

by Michael Arata

Despite widespread layoffs, foreclosures and broken retirement nest-eggs, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District wants a 60 percent, seven-year parcel-tax increase, from \$90 to \$144 annually—another taxpayer-funded bailout for another spendthrift public agency.

Anxious to divert attention from real-world economic contexts, and from SRVUSD's fiscal irresponsibility, some Measure C tax promoters portray themselves falsely as "fiscal conservatives." They won't fool attentive voters.

Campaigning for the current parcel tax in 2004, the district's PR spokesman claimed "an understanding there will not be a pay raise next year" (SRV Times, March 28, 2004). But in fact, 2005's retroactive raise was just the first of four raises (totaling 20.2 percent, compounded) implemented since then, atop built-in contractual step and column increases.

The district's skyrocketing spending trajectory is even more remarkable over longer periods. SRVUSD first sought a parcel tax during 1991-92, alleging mostly the same "needs" as now. That year, the district's general fund spent \$6,092 per student, in today's dollars. That tax campaign failed.

Today, the district's per-student general fund income is at least \$8,221—i.e., \$205,525 in annual operational dollars alone (atop capital improvements) per 25-student classroom. And at \$215 million, SRVUSD's 2008-09 general fund revenues alone are nearly \$60 million ahead of inflation and enrollment growth,

combined, since 1991-92.

So the district has dusted off its 2004 parcel-tax playbook, again projecting severe enrollment-growth reductions—from an actual average of 971 students annually since passing 2004's parcel tax—suddenly now to just 217 new students projected next year, with a correspondingly large (but fictitious) funding deficiency, since state funds depend on student numbers. With orchestrated media fanfare, 228 teachers have received potential-layoff notices.

During 2004's similarly deceptive parcel-tax campaign, SRVUSD projected just 212 new students the following year; 225 teachers received potential-layoff notices. But 836 new students actually materialized, and no teacher layoffs occurred.

The district's most recent 2008-09 year-end projections show \$6.9 million reserved for "economic uncertainties" (isn't that our present condition?), another \$5.6 million in "unencumbered reserves," and \$1 million more in discretionary "carryover" funds.

In the meantime, California's state treasury, the primary source of school funding, will be engorged by a 1 percent sales-tax increase (\$300 more on a \$30,000 automobile), 0.5 percent car-tax increase (\$150 more on a car valued at \$30,000), and apparently a 0.25 percent income-tax surcharge.

Additionally:

- Exposed in "Not as Good as You Think" (Pacific Research Institute), SRVUSD high schools perform poorly in State testing of college readiness—averaging

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PUBLISHER
Gina Channell-Allen

EDITORIAL
Editor
Dolores Fox Ciardelli
Staff Reporter
Geoff Gillette
Editorial Assistant
Amory Gutierrez

Contributors
Susan Astbury
John A. Barry
Don Colman
Beverly Lane
Jacqui Love Marshall
Chris Scott
Maria Shen
Franklin Utchen
Stan Wharton

ART & PRODUCTION
Art Director/
Operations Manager
Rick Nobles
Designers
Trina Cannon
Lili Cao
Kristin Herman
Manuel Valenzuela

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Inside Sales
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BUSINESS
Ad Services
Tracey Fordahl
Sandy Lee
Business Associate
Lisa Oefelein
Circulation Manager
Bob Lampkin
Office Manager
Kathy Martin

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

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Parcel tax needed

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the material.

—Nik Becker, sophomore

• It's really hard to ask questions about assignments or expectations when there are a lot of kids in the class. In my smaller classes, I have a better chance of understanding what is expected of me.

—Briana Evans, sophomore

• Because education is a publicly funded institution, it is extremely important that our state and local communities know and understand the impact of budget reductions on our students, teachers, and school sites. Our students and children spend the majority of their week at school sites learning how to be successful academically, socially and athletically. It becomes our

responsibility to maintain the excellence that has come to define the SRVUSD. It is our job as a community to ensure its fiscal strength.

—Andrew Gardner, social sciences teacher,
San Ramon Valley High School

Most Americans agree that investing in children is a core responsibility of our society. Until our state government decides education in California is a funding priority, it's up to us. Some funding for schools in the San Ramon Valley is coming directly from parents at each individual school site and it's not equitable. Our community needs to value education—not just parents of children. Vote Yes on Measure C.

Cynthia Moe is a founding board member of the Cougar Fund at John Baldwin Elementary; Academic Boosters and Charger Fund Board at Charlotte Wood; PTA and Academic Boosters at SRVHS.

Flunk Measure C

► Continued from page 8

only 43 percent proficiency in English, for example.

• And among similar schools, SRVUSD's Academic Performance Index ratings average just 6.9 out of 10. Taxpayers deserve better performance, and fewer minimum days, without higher parcel taxes.

• SRVUSD's teacher unionists already receive up to \$86,226 (plus extraordinary benefits, including tenured job security and lucrative defined-benefit pensions) for 186 employment days annually, versus 250 days for most workers.

• Parcel tax dollars are fungible, like bailouts and bonuses. Measure C's "citizen oversight" committee would confirm fund-

ing of announced programs with \$7 million in annual parcel-tax receipts in (let's call it) Column A. Meanwhile, large amounts in Column B—previously the funding source for these programs—would be freed up for another series of large raises for all district employees, including administrators.

• Regarding Measure C's senior exemption, fair-minded seniors recognize the inequity in backing taxes they needn't pay themselves.

Long and short, Measure C is not about academic excellence. Instead, it's about the next series of cross-the-board SRVUSD raises, without regard to merit. For more information, visit www.NOnC.info.

Michael Arata, an industrial water-treatment consultant, was a high school chemistry and mathematics instructor for 20 years and a swimming coach.

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Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

SRVHS PREP WRAP

by Tanner Himmelman

Men's Lacrosse

After another North Coast Section title, the San Ramon Valley Wolves boy's lacrosse team has started the season a bit slower than usual. The boys are 7-6 (4-3) in the East Bay Athletic League. The team had an eventful spring break spending some time down in San Diego playing against some of the best teams in California. They went 1 and 1, defeating Torrey Pines, 9-5, and losing to top rated Poway, 8-3.

Some people think of this as a rebuilding year for San Ramon lacrosse because the team lost so much of its core strength after last year's season. One returning star is Ross Rudow, who has

been a starter since his freshman year and has taken the team under his wing, accomplishing more than what was expected. With this year's team being such a young one, this experience playing against some of the best teams in the state and winning will only help the Wolves make their way back to the NCS title game.

But the Wolves are taking their season one game at a time with their game against cross town rival Monte Vista at 7 p.m. tonight, April 17, at Monte Vista. The SRV-MV women also face off at 7 p.m. tonight at San Ramon Valley. During the season or playoffs any game against the Mustangs is a big game for the Wolves. If anything will boost the confidence it would be a big win over their big time rivals.

MVHS PREP WRAP

by Troy Dillingham

Women's Lacrosse

With spring break comes the opportunity for sports teams at Monte Vista to branch out and schedule teams they may not normally get to play. A lot of the Mustang's spring sports teams took the time to boost their strength of schedule. The women's lacrosse team, considered one of the top NorCal teams, hit the road to take on some of SoCal's finest in La Costa Canyon and Torrey Pines. The result was two very close games against the perennial powers, however the Mustangs did suffer defeat in each of those games.

Men's Lacrosse

The men's lacrosse made the trip north to Oregon after playing Amador Valley the night before. Their first game you could tell they were tired, losing to Oregon

Episcopal School, 13-6. They got their act together by the end of the trip, defeating eight-time state champion Lakeridge High School, 10-4.

Men's Baseball/ Women's Softball

The baseball team has displayed a bit of toughness following a loss to rival De La Salle with a win over Amador Valley and a loss to Irvington with a 5-0 dismantling of Castro Valley. About halfway through the season, this team looks to start peaking at the right time to snatch the NCS crown.

The women's softball team at Monte Vista looks to be making steady improvements after defeating Granada in late March and then losing close to California and Amador Valley recently. There are still a lot of games left for these Lady 'Stangs to make a run and stir the pot in the East Bay Athletic League.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, April 17

Track and Field

Woody Wilson Invitational at UC Davis

Men's Volleyball

Monte Vista at Foothill, 6 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse

Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18

Swimming

Palo Alto Invitational

Monday, April 20

Golf

Freedom Tournament at Shadow Lakes, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, April 21

Golf

Monte Vista at Amador at Ruby Hill, 3 p.m.

San Ramon Valley vs. De La Salle at Diablo, 3:30 p.m.

Softball

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 4 p.m.

Men's Volleyball

Monte Vista vs. Granada, 6 p.m.

San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 6 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Monte Vista vs. Foothill

San Ramon Valley at Amador

Women's Lacrosse

Monte Vista at Granada, 7 p.m.

San Ramon Valley at Amador, 7 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse

Monte Vista vs. Granada, 7 p.m.

San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22

Baseball

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 3:45 p.m.

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.



A-Team takes championship

The St. Isidore's seventh-grade boys CYO A-Team completed a magical season by winning the regular season and the Tri-Valley Championship by first beating St. Joan of Arc in the semifinals (52-46) and then Catholic Community of Pleasanton in the championship game (52-48).

In the championship game against CCOP, St. Isidore's was led by Marco Zamora and Colin Chiapello, who each had 17 points, Jerry Karczewski who chipped in 7 points, and point guard Keenan Lee with 4. In the second half, CCOP played fantastically and kept the pressure on SI by coming back three different times from 10-point deficits and fighting back to cut the lead to 4 points on three different occasions.

In the semifinal game, SI came back from a 5-point half-time deficit to defeat St. Joan of Arc, 52-46. Zamora again led SI with 22 points, Karczewski added 15 points, Chiapello added 8 points, Lee chipped in another 4 points, and Trautner had 4.

The team members are (front row, l-r) Cole Kunsman, Daniel Prayego, Peter Tagliaferri, Jerry Karczewski, Keenan Lee, (top) Coach Gerry Karczewski, Marco Zamora, Jack Sauer, Jonathan Freshman, Colin Chiapello, Alex Trautner and Coach Roger Lee.



Danville free throw champ

Julia Golub, a 14-year-old Danville girl, went to the California State Free Throw championship in Fresno on March 21 and captured third place in a shootout in the girls 14 division. She had successfully competed at the local, district and regional competitions and represented the East Bay team, the Oakland Diocese.

She is an eighth-grader at Los Cerros Middle School and has enjoyed playing CYO basketball for St. Isidore's during the past six years with a remarkable shooting eye and ability to make free throws. She practices four times a week, shooting approximately 200 free throws a day. Although she was nervous about competing, she said she was confident and focused on giving her best efforts.



Unholy loss

De La Salle High School junior Midfield Sean Mullin of Danville stands firm under attack, as the Spartans lose to St. Ignatius, 17-8, on Saturday afternoon in Concord. Both teams went in with only one loss; the Catholic school rivals try to schedule their matchup during Holy Week.

CHRIS SCOTT/MCMASPORTS.PHOTO.COM

Food & Wine

SPRING 2009



The Wine Guy



BY DON COLMAN

Two grapes are better than one

2007 Domaine Terlato and Chapoutier Shiraz-Viognier

Every article so far has been on a wine from California. Most from Napa, some from Sonoma and a couple from other parts of the state. That has been because I love the access to top quality wine from local vintners. Earlier in my "wine" years, I had different regions I loved—namely Australia, Italy and France. We didn't live in California and had much less access to all of these beautiful California wines. I am a creature of habit—so once I started in the California wines I just kept going.

Recently, I thought it would be fun to go back and revisit some of my favorite regions. Top on my list was Australia. They tend to have very warm days with cool ocean air nights, leading to an ideal growing season for flavorful grapes. The wine of choice for this foray into imported wine was the 2007 Domaine Terlato and Chapoutier Shiraz-Viognier.

The interesting thing about this wine is the decision to take 95 percent of a full bodied red (Shiraz) and match it with 5 percent of a medium bodied, fruit forward white wine (Viognier). The outcome is a wine with a medium purple color and aromatic scents. The smells that emerge as the wine opens up are strawberries, combined with a sweet smelling peach and a hint of spice.

The blend of Shiraz and Viognier also leads to a medium sweet taste. That is caused by the Australian Shiraz's tending to have a "chocolatey" taste while Viogniers characteristically have sweet peach. The sweetness is matched nicely to a medium bodied wine with just a hint of soft tannins. It starts off with a bold flavor, with plenty of berries that tapers off to a balanced and very pleasing finish. All in all, a nicely balanced wine from beginning to end. As for a food pairing, it would work nicely with a chicken (roasted or barbequed), pork or lighter red meat (veal, etc).

This wine has been paired together in more ways than one. First is the obvious pairing of the grapes. Taking a full bodied, heavy Shiraz and pairing it with the medium, sweeter Viognier is a common practice within some of France's well known wine districts. Second is the pairing of two wine families. Anthony Terlato is well known within Napa as a high end importer of wines, while Michel Chapoutier is an admired grower from the Rhône region of France. The two wine magnates jointly bought a vineyard in Australia and created this Shiraz-Viognier. Bringing these two together was a logical choice and results in a refreshing, flavorful and balanced wine. You can find it at Lunardi's for approximately \$24 a bottle.

Why did I pick Australia for my first imported wine to review? Italy and France would have been logical choices; however, I have always had a soft spot in my heart for Australia. Maybe it's Crocodile Dundee, maybe it's their accent, and maybe it's Foster's beer. But the main reason is my perception of Australia—nice people, nice weather and nice wine.

Until next time, cheers!

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

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by Geoff Gillette

We expect kids to learn many things in a school environment. Such as reading, writing, arithmetic. Organizers of the Athenian Wilderness Experience (AWE) at the Athenian School in Danville are working from a different list entirely. Juniors at the school recently completed the month-long course, which taught them how to work together and survive in the harsh setting of Death Valley.

The program, a graduation requirement, has been a staple at the Athenian School for 30 years, said Upper School Head Dick Bradford. AWE puts students, in their junior year, in either Death Valley or the high Sierra for 26 days, where they are taught survival skills and then left on their own to put those skills into practice.

AWE is a part of the "experiential education" provided at the Athenian School, a private institution with 300 high school students and 150 middle school students. The school was founded by Dyke Brown in 1965 with the concept of educating the whole individual through several "pillars of education." One such pillar is outdoor education, which led to the formation of AWE.

"It's based on the Outward Bound model," said Bradford. He added that it teaches more than just wilderness survival. "It teaches leadership, community service ... philosophies that we follow here."

AWE is run by the husband and wife team of Jason Ham and Phoebe Dameron. Ham said putting the students in the middle of the wilderness teaches them not only to be self reliant but that they are capable of more than they realize.

"Our mission is to provide students an opportunity to explore the outer limits of their comfort level," he said. In a classroom setting, the only result of failure is a bad grade, he noted, while AWE offers immediate consequences.

"They come to realize that 'if I don't put up my tent right I'm going to get wet tonight.' They tend to be their most creative when they're put in situations with real consequences," Ham said.

The 44 students are broken up into four groups with two instructors per group. Others do the logistical work of setting up the food and water resupply zones and providing help if a student needs to be taken out due to illness or injury.

In the first phase of the program, the instructors do the majority of the work, teaching the students what they will need to do. A two-day rock climbing course helps students anticipate what they may see while hiking and how to navigate rougher terrains.

During the second phase, Ham said the instructors start to pull back and let the teenagers have more control. This leads into the three-day "Solo Adventure." The teens are spread out and given an area to stay. They each make their own camp and are on their own during this time.

"It gives them a chance to break, reflect and to be away from each other for a little while," Ham said. Being together constantly can lead to fraying tempers, so the solo time also allows for some cooling off.

After three days, the students regroup and go through the remainder of the course without instruction.

"That's called 'Independence,'" Ham explained. "The instructors no longer travel with the students but instead follow about 30 minutes behind them."

The students must navigate to the next camp, set up shelters and cook their own meals. They



Athenian School juniors (l-r) Zaddy Benham, Elan Goldbart, Alex "AK" Kahn, Tristan Gundel and Jesse Rosenberg finish out their 2-day journey with an 8-mile run from Osage Park to the soccer fields at the Athenian. Dozens of friends and family awaited the students at the finish line.

GEOFF GILLETTE

Lessons in living

Death Valley excursion lets students explore 'the outer limits of their comfort level'



COURTESY ATHENIAN SCHOOL

Student Michaela Lee rappels down the Grapevine Canyon during the Athenian Wilderness Experience. During the month-long excursion to Death Valley, 45 Athenian juniors spent two days learning rock climbing and other survival skills needed for their wilderness crossing.

also need to divide the cooking supplies among their packs to move to the next site.

Ham said it puts their new skills into practice plus allows the students to develop their own group dynamics, dealing with each other without having the instructors to mediate. Ham said it teaches conflict resolution and communication.

"We teach them how to talk to each other and be aware," he said. "You can't take shortcuts in communication because you can't just go in your room and close your door."

The final hurdle comes after the 26-day journey. The students have packed up their gear, made the 10-hour drive back, and now the final exam is an eight-mile run from Osage Park to the Athenian campus.

"That's one of the high points for me," said Ham, "seeing people make it to the run-in. As a director you're looking across the soccer field and you can see how much they changed."

But how do the students feel about the experience?

"I didn't know what to expect," said Alex "AK" Kahn, 17. Fellow student Patrice Carson, 17, said she hadn't heard much about it beyond stories of the cold nights and warm days.

"It did get really cold those first few days," she remembered. "A few mornings I woke up with ice on my sleeping bag."

"My hair froze," added Kahn.

Both agreed that once out in the field they had the time of their lives, even with the low temperatures.

"This was a growing experience," Kahn said, "knowing my limits ... but there was a time when we summited Nelson Range and we're surrounded by wildlife and my teammates and I were eating cheesecake and watching the sunset and I just felt super accomplished. We'd pushed through this and defeated it."

AWE left its mark on the students in a variety of ways, such as showing them a broader world than they see at school.

"I wish I was back out there," Carson said with a smile. "Our instructors showed me a different way to live life."

"It bothered me that we have to keep places like this (Death Valley) ... as a preserve," said Kahn. "And we have to go visit that spot, instead of living with it."

The parents say they've seen positive changes after their students return. Susan Kahn said one of the biggest was in the way her son AK communicates with her.

"Right away I noticed he spoke more slowly and thoughtfully if I asked him a question. And went into things in more depth, which is unusual for him. It's like he came back as more of a person." ■

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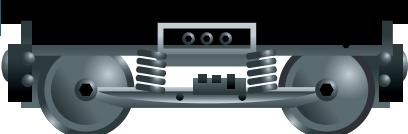
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We will publish this page again: May 22nd.



The Y Files



BY MARIA SHEN

Showcasing talent encourages exploration

The Student Recognition Project competition recently announced its winners. As always, I'm amazed by the youth talent in this area. All high school students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District were invited to participate. There was no entry fee and a tempting \$200 reward for all winners.

When I was a freshman at Monte Vista High School, I entered a short story in the competition and, to my surprise, won. At the time, none of my friends knew I liked to write. I hadn't told anyone I would be entering the competition. For someone who was not at all confident in her writing abilities, winning the competition was recognition that inspired me to start showing people my work. But, more than that, when I went to the showcase of all the winners, I was astounded by the talent I saw. I loved moving across the room, ooh-ing and aah-ing at colorful displays of paintings and drawings, photographs and fashion designs. Inspecting a beautiful photograph, I found that it was taken by one of my friends—someone I never knew could hold a camera, much less handle it so adroitly.

The Student Recognition Project should be commended; it discovers and reinforces talent throughout the district. I know from my personal experience and what I've seen from my friends that high school is where most of us begin to grasp our identities and flesh out our passions. At such an important juncture of our lives, the opportunities and awards provided by the program give teenagers a helpful nudge and a clue to what we may really love to do. Whether or not we make a career of our hobbies is to be seen, but I think, for most of us, the work we display in this competition is indicative of the passions that stay with us and become part of our daily lives.

The Business and Education Roundtable, which sponsors the project, is run by donations from businesses in the school district. For years, the Roundtable has provided local teens with an opportunity to shine in a wide variety of areas. Competition included Acting, Applied Design, Architecture, Computer Aided Drafting, Community Service, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Dance, Entrepreneur, Fashion Design,



"One Happy Pup" was an entry in the Applied Arts division, created by Lisa Boozer of San Ramon.

Financial Planning/Investment, Journalism, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Digital and Film Photography, Robotics, Science and Technology, Video Production, Visual Arts and Web Design. According to the school district Web site, the judging is done by professionals in the field in order to promote collaboration between the business people and educators. Through this project, teens are encouraged to explore their keen interests outside of school.

In an effort to alleviate the budget crisis in the district, local high school students from Monte Vista plan to put together a literary magazine with the writing, photography and art winners of the Student Recognition Project competition. Tavish Nanda from Monte Vista High School is the co-president of the Young Bohemians and he will be working with the district to make the magazine available to everyone in the community. So, stay tuned for news of the magazine from your schools and local businesses. It should be available in select bookstores in San Ramon and Danville. It's a great way to contribute money to our wonderful school district and also to promote the artistic endeavors of high school students.

Maria Shen, reporting on Generation Y, is a senior at Monte Vista High School. She founded Contra Costa County's Young Bohemians creative writing club and is editor of Voicebox, a literary magazine. E-mail her at youngbohemians@gmail.com.

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

The Alamo Post Office: Who were all those Bells?

Alamo's post office was the first established in the San Ramon Valley and is remembered as a community gathering place from the beginning. John M. Jones was the first postmaster and, in the 20th century, Bell family members were postmasters for more than 50 years.

At the start the post office was run by a remarkable pioneer pair: John and Mary Ann Jones. They came through the valley in 1847, lived in San Jose, and moved to Alamo in 1851. On May 18, 1852, he became the first postmaster. This post office was the only one between Martinez and San Jose.

In those days the post office was the place people picked up mail and stayed to visit. Mary's autobiography described the post office: "When his (her husband's) business called him away from home, I took care of the office. Many times men would come and get their mail and sit and read and talk until I felt like saying, 'Do go, I have to work.' We had no stamps then, nor envelopes. We wrote our letters, folded and sealed them with sealing wax, and then paid ten cents for delivery. We had mail twice a week."

There were six other postmasters before the Bell family came to prominence at the start of the 20th century. David Crockett Bell served first, from 1905 to 1923, followed by son Roy D. Bell from 1923-1936, and daughter Harriett Bell Hunt (1936-1944). There was a short break, then daughter Bertha Bell Linhares served from 1947-1960.

During the Bell Postmaster years, the location and the service changed. David Bell's post office was across Highway 21 from his grocery store on the west side of the street. For a time it was called



Mr. and Mrs. David Bell, with children Harriett, Mary, Alice, Ora and Bertha, pose on the front porch of Bell's store.

Bell's Post Office Store. In 1910 a two-story building on the northwest corner of Las Trampas at the highway became the office. Then, in July of 1936, Mrs. Hunt built a small place for the post office on the southwest corner of Las Trampas and the highway, right in front of her house.

Not until 1958 when Mrs. Linhares was postmaster did neighborhood service begin, although patrons could continue to go to the post office for mail if they chose. Bertha Bell Linhares was born in 1905 and remembered the days when an Alamo population sign read "400."

She recalled growing up at the post office. "There were two mails a day. The big thing was to gather at the post office when the mail came in the evening. Father had a stove and chairs where the men would sit around and talk."

Sometimes the wives would come too. They'd come sit in our living room, and I was always interested in what they said." She married Anthony Linhares when she was 16, settling on Las Trampas Road. Later a road cut through their property and was named Linhares Road.

In October 1964 a building which the U.S. Postal Service constructed as a modern post office was built in the western part of Alamo Market Plaza. Of course, this was after the devoted Bells had retired from their watch.

Sources: Virgie V. Jones, Remembering Alamo p. 53, 63-4; USPS Web site; SRV Times, Feb. 14, 1985; museum archives

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

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“Tanya knew that she was going to be the donor. You could see the energy in her. She was uplifted by the whole commitment. There was never a second look back.”

—Bill Lombardi, husband of Tanya Lombardi, kidney donor



Maxine Moir Furminger (left) and kidney donor Tanya Lombardi relax and share laughs after their successful transplant surgeries at UCSF Medical Center. Tanya had faith that if tests found her to be a good match for donating a kidney that it was meant to be.

Friendship knows no bounds

Giving a kidney gives something back to the world, says donor

By Susan Astbury

Who would think that joining a book club could save your life? Almost six years ago, Maxine Moir Furminger e-mailed some friends from Danville inviting them to start a book club. Maxine had suffered from kidney problems since her late teens, but when she began the book group, she had just gotten married to Michael Furminger and her kidney function was fine.

In spring 2006, one member invited a new neighbor to join—Tanya Lombardi. The meeting of Maxine and Tanya would grow into a friendship unlike few others and have a profound effect on their two lives.

Maxine was a 19-year-old college student with no previous health issues when she was admitted to the hospital with extremely high blood pressure. Extensive testing showed that her left kidney had never developed from birth, and her right kidney was functioning at less than 10 percent.

“My life changed dramatically—life style, food choices, everything,” Maxine, now 38, recalled. “After three years, while pursuing my college career, it came time for a transplant.”

On April 30, 1992, Maxine’s father donated a kidney to her.

“I’m an only child and typically they go to a sibling or parent,” she said.

After the transplant Maxine went on with her life, including backpacking around Europe with a friend. But in 2007 it became apparent that Maxine’s kidney function had started to decline.

“The thing with transplants is that it’s not guaranteed it’s going to last forever,” Maxine explained. “It depends on the match, how you take care of yourself. Anything can happen.”

One of Maxine’s best friends from childhood, Jen Good, came to her rescue, offering to donate a kidney. At the same time, Jen’s sister had offered to be a surrogate mother for Maxine and her husband since going through a pregnancy would jeopardize Maxine’s health.

Jen went through the matching process for the donation. “Everything looked really good,” said Maxine. “The twins were due in November so we decided to put things on hold until they arrived.”

After the twins were born, the women resumed working toward the kidney transplant in the spring of 2008. But they found out that during the last six months, Maxine had developed antibodies to Jen’s blood.

“We had spent almost a year thinking that I was going to be the donor,” Jen said. “And

we had this really safe feeling. The twins were born, and we celebrated, and we knew that I was going to be the kidney donor.”

Jen wrote to tell their good friends and families what had happened and asked them to consider being a donor.

“I wanted people to know that it was so much more than just giving something to Maxine,” said Jen. “It was giving something to everybody and it was giving something to yourself.”

As a result of that letter, four friends—including Tanya Lombardi and Maxine’s mother—decided to go through the testing process.

“I found out that it’s pretty unusual to have multiple donors and multiple donors who are healthy and can actually be a donor,” said Maxine. “It’s a big fear of people to have major surgery and give up an organ.”

She explained that with a living donor, there is not a wait to have the transplant. When an organ comes from a deceased donor, it usually must be flown in from somewhere else.

“You go on a list if your kidney function is 20 percent or lower,” said Maxine. “The wait for me was going to be five to seven years. Here I am with twins in my late 30s. I knew that I had a small window and that’s why I was really vigilant and proactive in my process.”

After the long testing process, it got to the point where Maxine just wanted to know who would be the best donor.

“Everybody has genetic markers, then they look at the size of the donor and the age and all these different factors,” said Maxine.

It turned out that the best match was Tanya, whom she had met in her book club.

“We were at a July Fourth party and Tanya came up to me and said that she wanted to be a donor,” remembered Maxine. “I said, ‘Hold on. This is a huge commitment. Have you really thought about it?’ She said that she had talked to Bill, her husband, and she really wanted to do it.”

Tanya, 35, recalls that she wanted to donate the kidney because she could.

“Somebody was in need and it’s something that I was able to do,” she said. “On the surface you have to be a blood type match in order to go down the path and I was. I guess I just have a faith that things were meant to be.”

However, she did think about it long and hard.

“I’m not alone,” she said. “I have a husband and two young children. I made the decision to go ahead and get tested, which I made on my own with my husband’s awareness. After that we talked and went through our own thought process.”



Maxine Moir Furminger with her family, husband Michael Furminger, and twins Olivia and Harris, 18 months.

"We spoke with various medical professionals and went online to see what the medical press was saying and did our homework," said Bill Lombardi, Tanya's husband. "We found that there was a low probability of complications. We had our children's blood tested to see who would be a better match for a donation and it turned out that I was the better match."

"It was a mother-to-mother type of gift. It was the right thing to do—if we could do it, we would do it," he added.

Tanya said she was very open and straightforward with her young children, Mitchell, 7, and Isabelle, 6. Before she committed, she told them that she was thinking about donating a kidney to Maxine.

"When I finally decided to donate I told them that I am giving a kidney and I'm going to the hospital," she recalled. "My 7-year-old son wanted to know if he could come and see the kidney. Apparently the doctors hear this all the time, so we took a little camera and they took a picture."

"When I told them we were good to go they got me in the next week," said Tanya. "Assuming that all the tests come back fine you go back to meet with their doctor and have one final test when they actually physically look and see what's inside there. And that's it. It's just those two days including meetings with a sociologist, the doctors."

The surgery took place at the UCSF Medical Center on Dec. 22. Tanya and Maxine went together the week before surgery for a meeting with the surgeons and the pre-op. And then it was the big day.

"I was scheduled for surgery for 7:30 a.m. and Maxine for 8:30," Tanya recalled. "They took me right in and explained the process and confirmed with me like three times that I was there to donate a kidney."

"I'd like to give credit to the surgical transplant team at UCSF for their tremendous work," said Maxine. "They are first class."

Both women returned to their families on Christmas Day.

"We basically needed babysitting for two weeks," said Tanya although they were up and walking the morning after surgery. "We weren't supposed to be alone and we weren't supposed to drive. After the two weeks I felt pretty good but had to be conscientious to not do the things they told me not to do."

Tanya was on leave for six weeks from her full time job doing consumer research at the Chlorox Corp.

"When I went in to talk to my boss and his boss and told them about the kidney donation, their immediate reaction was, 'Oh, my gosh, we're so amazed and impressed,'" Tanya said. She recalled them saying, "From a work perspective it's a non issue. Just make sure you're OK and you're doing the right thing for you, your kids and your husband. Whatever you need from work, you'll get."

Maxine, a human resources manager at Bank of America in San Francisco, took it very easy the first 30 days after the surgery.

"For me, I had new kidney that was functioning

Raising funds & awareness

Forty-eight runners from Forward Motion Race Club of Danville are preparing to run in The Relay, a 199-mile race May 2-3 to help raise awareness for organ donation. This year the club is running in honor of 6-year-old Katie Grace Groebner, a Clayton resident who is awaiting a heart-lung transplant. Each team has to raise at least \$600 to benefit Organ 'R' Us, said Larry Feigenbaum, one of the team captains.

really well, although I was on a lot of medication in the beginning, and still am on a good amount," she said. "The incision site was sore but I wasn't tired."

Bill Lombardi said that both he and Tanya felt good about the donation, and they hope to make other people aware that the procedure is safe.

"Tanya knew that she was going to be the donor," he said. "You could see the energy in her. She was uplifted by the whole commitment. There was never a second look back."

Maxine has been a member of Northern California National Kidney Foundation serving as vice president of the board 2007-08.

"My focus is creating awareness for living donors," she said. "The Kidney Foundation has educational seminars on the Peninsula. So I'm going to try to start up something in the East Bay."

"I feel like we need an outlet for patients and their potential living donors to come and speak to people who have gone through the process to allay their fears and address their concerns and let them know that it works and you can go on and live a very healthy life as a donor or as a patient."

There are 78,957 people in the United States waiting for a kidney to be donated, according to the National Kidney Foundation. The number of kidneys donated nationwide in 2008 was 16,514. Of those, 5,963 were from living donors.

Currently in California, 16,083 people are waiting for a kidney. In 2008, there were 1,925 kidney transplants in California. Of those, 1,220 were from deceased donors and 705 were from living donors.

"Whenever people thank me for donating, my reaction is that I feel blessed that I was able to do something like this," said Tanya. "I felt somebody was looking over me and said, 'You would be good for this.' And to me that's a compliment beyond anything else."

"Meeting Tanya means that I can live a healthy long life directly because of her and her actions and her compassion and her willingness to be a donor," said Maxine. "She's an incredible woman; she's a lifesaver—literally."

When Maxine sent out e-mails to start the book club in 2003 her kidney problems were not a consideration. Now she says, "Who would have thought that five years later that somebody who joined the book club would be donating a kidney and saving my life?" ■



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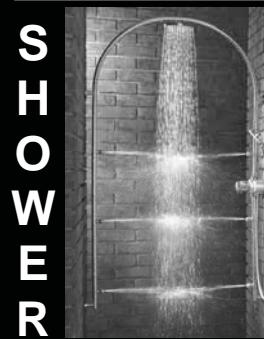
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Calendar

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

Author Visit

Rakestraw Books The bookstore will host numerous authors in the month of April including: Jay McInerney, author of "How It Ended," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 21; Mary Roach, author of "Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 22; Nina Planck, author of "Real Food for Mother and Baby," at noon, Friday, April 24; Franz and Kurt Wisner, authors of "How the World Makes Love," at noon, Wednesday, April 29; and Tom Killion, author of "Tamaipais Walking: Poetry, History, and Prints," at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 30; all at the bookstore, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. Reservations are recommended for all events; call 837-7337.

Robert Scheer Robert Scheer, author of "Pornography of Power: How Defense Hawks Hijacked 9/11 and Weakened America," will speak at 7 p.m., Monday, April 20, at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$12-\$20; \$5 for students. Call 933-7850.

Clubs

Commonwealth Club This club will host guest speaker Michael Krasny at 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 20, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$12 for members; \$18 for non-members; and \$7 for students with valid ID.

Spa Day and Girl's Lunch Out Speaker Donna Smilow will talk about inner and outer beauty at a Spa Day and Girl's Lunch Out from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost

is \$20, including lunch. Reservations are due by April 20. Call Pat at 837-8530.

Concerts

'Around the World in 90 Minutes'

Enjoy dinner and a live concert with the Danville Community Band as they take you on a musical journey "Around the World in 90 Minutes" at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at the Blackhawk Country Club, Lakeside Ballroom, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$50. For reservations, call 736-6500.

Events

California Independent Film Festival

GALA A Gala Night Awards Dinner featuring Diane Ladd, 2009 Recipient of CIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award, will be from 5-11 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Tickets are \$80. Call 371-0100 or visit www.caifilmfest.org.

Cemetery Tours Trained docents reveal stories of pioneer families during a special walk-through of the Alamo Cemetery at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 25 and Oct. 24, at 130 El Portal, Danville. For reservations, call Patty Dobbins at 838-0127. A donation is requested.

Community Garage Sale and Crafts Do you live in a community that doesn't allow garage sales? Have samples or do crafts? Alamo Women's Club will host a sale in the parking lot and clubhouse from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Vendors are needed. Cost per space \$35+ depending on location. Proceeds benefit Contra Costa charities. Call Anita at 837-1242.

Lend a Hand Day Danville residents are asked to volunteer to assist seniors with their spring yard clean up from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 25. If you would like to assist or are a senior and would like help, call 314-3490.

National Child Abuse Awareness Day

The National Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley will be having a Child Abuse/Safety Awareness Day from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 18, at Safeway in Blackhawk and Lunardi's/Farmers Market in Danville. Call 918-3999.

The Battle of Forest Home Farms-Civil War Day

Cannons blaring, guns shooting, troops running for cover! Witness the battle of Forest Home Farms from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children; pre-registration is required. Call 973-3284.

Film

'Motherland Afghanistan' Filmmaker Sedika Mojadiani and her father Dr. Qudrat Mojadiani will host a screening of "Motherland Afghanistan" from 7-8 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, at Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations will be accepted.

Fundraisers

Ascona Fat Cactus 5K Fun Run

The first Ascona Fat Cactus 5K Fun Run will be from 8-11 a.m., Sunday, April 26, at Ascona Pizza, 11020 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Cost is \$20 for pre-registration; \$25 on the day of the race. Proceeds

benefit Dougherty Valley High School Athletics. Registration forms are available at Ascona Pizza, Fat Cactus, DVHS or at www.dvhigh.net.

Book Sale

Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (9-10 a.m. members only), Friday, April 17; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 18; and noon-4 p.m., Sunday, April 19; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser

Hospice Foundation of the East Bay will host a Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Christ the King Church, 199 Brandon Rd., Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$12, including all-you-can-eat pasta, salad, French bread and dessert; beverages are separate. Proceeds benefit Hospice. Call Nancy Radonich at 784-4321 or Pauline Jones at 864-3642.

Garden/Home Tours

Ninth Annual AAUW Garden Tour

Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women presents its ninth annual Garden Tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 8-9, at various gardens in Alamo and Danville. Tickets are \$30 before May 2; \$35 thereafter; \$25 for seniors. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to AAUW Garden Tour, 400 Cliffside Dr., Danville 94526, or visit the East Bay Flower Company in the Livery. Proceeds benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation. Call Mary at 831-1784.

Health

Lyme Disease Seminar California Lyme Disease Association (CALDA) will present a patient seminar on "Getting Healthy" with four of the nation's top Lyme specialists from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$40 per adult; \$20 per teen. To register, call 242-0600 or e-mail carolyn.degnan@sanramon.org.

Kids and Teens

Party with Puppets A Party with Puppets will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 18, near the playground or in the rotunda in Blackhawk Plaza, Danville. This event is free. Call 736-2751.

Paws to Read Paws to Read is for children in grades 1-5 from 4-5 p.m., Mondays, April 27, May 4 and May 18, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Parents should register children beginning April 13 because this program fills up fast; call 837-4489. This program is not for children who are afraid of dogs or who have pet allergies.

Pinewood Derby The Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Cub Scout's Pinewood Derby will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, April 25, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. There will be races, car design competitions, treasure hunts, crafts and food. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$7 for students and seniors; free for children under 6 and Scouts.

Spring Carnival and Parade Danville Little League will host a spring carnival and parade from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at Osage Park at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Dr., Danville. Visit www.danvilittleleague.net.

April 29, at the Danville Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way. News managers will be on hand to answer questions and learn ways to better serve the community. Call (415) 954-7777 or visit www.abc7news.com.

Natural Relief for Spring Allergies

Allergies can take away quality time as you may not be able to enjoy outdoor activities. Discover how to relieve symptoms naturally from 8-9 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at the Sports Basement, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are recommended. Call 826-3858.

Personal Effectiveness of Leaders: Thinking and Doing

Thomas Bateman will lead an engaging discussion on self-management from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, 150 Slayton Ave., Danville. This workshop is free. Visit www.virginia.edu/engagingthemind.

Stress Relief Career Coaching Are you stressed out? This workshop provides valuable information and practical exercises designed for stress relief from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 18, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Learn to better control anxiety and gain valuable tools to address your feelings about the economy and employment. Cost is \$10-\$25. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

Talking to Kids about Cancer and Loss This workshop will help parents understand how children experience grief and loss at different developmental stages, how to share information about cancer and how to identify signs of distress from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Miscellaneous

Fund-a-Field E-Waste Event An e-waste event benefiting Fund-a-Field will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at San Ramon Valley High School's parking lot, Danville. Most items are free to recycle; CPUs, stereos, telephones, printers, copiers, DVD players, fax machines, hard drives, video games and motherboards are \$5.

On Stage

'Three Tall Women' by Edward Albee Role Players presents Edward Albee's prize-winning "Three Tall Women" at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday, from April 17-May 9, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$22-25, \$15 for students with ID and groups 10 or more. For tickets, call 314-3400, visit the Danville Community Center, 400 Front St. or www.villagethatreshows.com.

Eugene O'Neill Plays Playwrights' Theatre will present staged readings of a new work and three rarely-produced O'Neill plays including "Born Tired" at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 3, and "The Sniper," "The Movie Man" and "Shell Shock" on Sunday, May 17. Tickets are \$25 for each show or \$40 for both; purchase by contacting the Eugene O'Neill Foundation at tao-house@eugeneoneill.org or call 820-1818. Tickets include transportation to Tao House from downtown Danville.

Political Notes

Rabbi on Mideast Peace Prospects

Tri-Valley Democratic Club will host guest speaker Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb who will discuss the situation in the Middle East and prospects for peace at 7 p.m., Monday, April 20, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A Q&A and a discussion will follow her presentation. This event is free and is open to the public. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydem.com.

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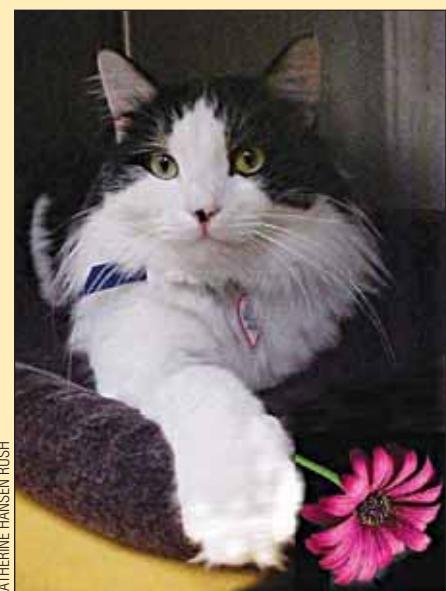
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Join other animal and nature lovers for Valley Humane Society's "Hidden Gardens of the Valley" tour. Meander through magnificent private gardens in Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 17. Tickets are \$35 and proceeds benefit humane society programs. See www.valleyhumane.org.

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Easter Egg Hunt



Electronic Collection Event
C & T Recycling is helping the FUNdFIELD team to raise money so that they can build soccer fields for children in Africa. Event Date: Sunday April 19, Time: 10am - 4pm, Location: 501 Danville Rd., the parking lot at San Ramon High between Railroad & Danville Rd. What You Can Bring: Televisions, Monitors, laptops, cell phones, Flat Screens, Ink jet cartridges. For other items there may be a \$5.00 fee to recycle them.

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Pleasanton, 3413 Beecham Ct, April 18 8-1

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Pleasanton, 2761 Sanderling Way, Sat, April 25, 9am-4pm

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This week's data represents homes sold during March 2009

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Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$380,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,487,500
Average sales reported: \$882,167

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 10
Lowest sale reported: \$345,000
Highest sale reported: \$787,000
Average sales reported: \$537,800

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Sun 1-4	
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty	924-0444
524 Gerard Court	\$659,000
Sat 12-4	Alain Pinel Realtors
4852 Drywood Street	\$699,950
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers

4 Bedrooms

1139 Mataro Court	\$1,029,000
Sun 1-4	Remax Accord
	918-3395
1608 Cindy Way	\$1,229,000
Sat/Sun 1-5	Alain Pinel Realtors
1624 Cindy Way	\$1,329,000
Sat/Sun 1-5	Alain Pinel Realtors
1640 Cindy Way	\$1,349,000
Sat/Sun 1-5	Alain Pinel Realtors

3828 Stone Point Way	\$640,000
Sun 1-4	Allied Brokers

2562 Glen Isle	\$659,000
Sun 2-5	Hometown GMAC

2140 Tanager Court	\$789,000
Sat/Sun	Alain Pinel Realtors

3150 Paseo Robles	\$789,000
Sun 1-5	Sheehan Real Estate

5 Bedrooms

1632 Cindy Way	\$1,449,000
Sat/Sun 1-5	Alain Pinel Realtors

6918 Corte Mateo	\$779,000
Sun 1-4	Remax Accord

6 Bedrooms

1368 Royal Creek Court	\$1,195,000
Sun 1-4	Keller Williams Realty



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sq. ft. Large guest cottage. 4 Car Garage with
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landscaped home has been featured
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X5000
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acre parcel. Horse Set Up, Work Shop, Pool
and more \$1,645,000

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Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.



A Special Thanks...

volunteers

You're Our Shining Stars

During National Volunteer Week, April 19 through April 25, we honor and thank you for your many hours of generous service. You give your time and your talent, and help us in so many ways. We appreciate your hard work, dedication and support. You are our special shining stars every day of the year!

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Hemanth Ande	Cynthia Crisologo	Susan Hill	Wayne Low	Angie Roncagliolo	Rocky Troyer
Dee Anderson	Mary Crowley	Christine Ho	Andrew Lu	Ann Rueckert	Kay Trueman
Mahdi Ardestani	Susan Curtis	Ronald Hoard II	Ruth Lucey	Evy Ryden	Lisa Van Diggelen
Roya Attarha	Tara Curtis	Marilynn Hoffman	Theresa Mailander	Bob Scheppeler	Natalie Villalon
Keola Baclayon	Don Cvietusa	Clark Hogan	Neil Malani	Maxine Scofield	Paulie Wan Tse
Pat Baratta	Murat Demircubuk	Julian Huguet	Nelda Mallory	Betty Searway	Mae Wandell
Michael Barnes	Sterling Deng	Anuradha Janakiram	Joshua Martin	Bebe Shaghassi	Martina Wang
Jan Bassett	Dusty Dennis	Jarunee Jantamoso	Peggy Massey	Pat Shockley	David Ward
Tarun Battu	Jasmine Dhaliwal	Milka Kahrovic	Shelby McCalla	Jasvir Sidhu	Hermann Welm
Sharon Beardsley	Kathy Dimino	Dottie Kaiser	Paulina McGill	Freda Simpson	Jason Wilhite
Angie Bernardino	Ty Dinkelspiel	Samaa Kamal	Misty Meine	Priyanka Singha	James Willson
Shivani Bhakta	Nancy Domde	Diane Kane	Katie Micheletti	Bob Smith	Cynthia Wittenberg
Inderpreet Bhatti	Tabea Dreismann	Sonam Kapoor	Linda Mijares	KJ Smith	Gail Wittman
Benoit Botella	Whitney Eitzen	Bhupinder Kaur	Pat Milligan	Mary Splane	Yolanda Wride
Jennifer Brazil	Alex Espinosa	Sarah Kendroud	Virginia Mitchell	Elinor Steele	Michelle Yee
Katie Brown	Glenn Feldman	Shyyon Kishani	Megan Mitchner	Erin Strahan	Kenney Young
Wendy Brown	Susie Ferris	Alan Kong	Lerraughn Morgan	Donna Szabados	Luisa Yuzon
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Sue Bullock	Patricia Fried	Pam Lai	Pennie Needham	Barbara Tillinghast	Lei Zhao
Connie Burke	Rudy Fruscella	Erin Lavey	Chris Nguyen	Sasha Tooryani	
Judie Burns	Erica Furer	Lilia Lazo	Sarah Noorbakhsh		
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Ernesto Cariaga Jr.	Kiumars Ghadjar	Velma Lemon	Evelyn Praske		
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