

# Danville Weekly

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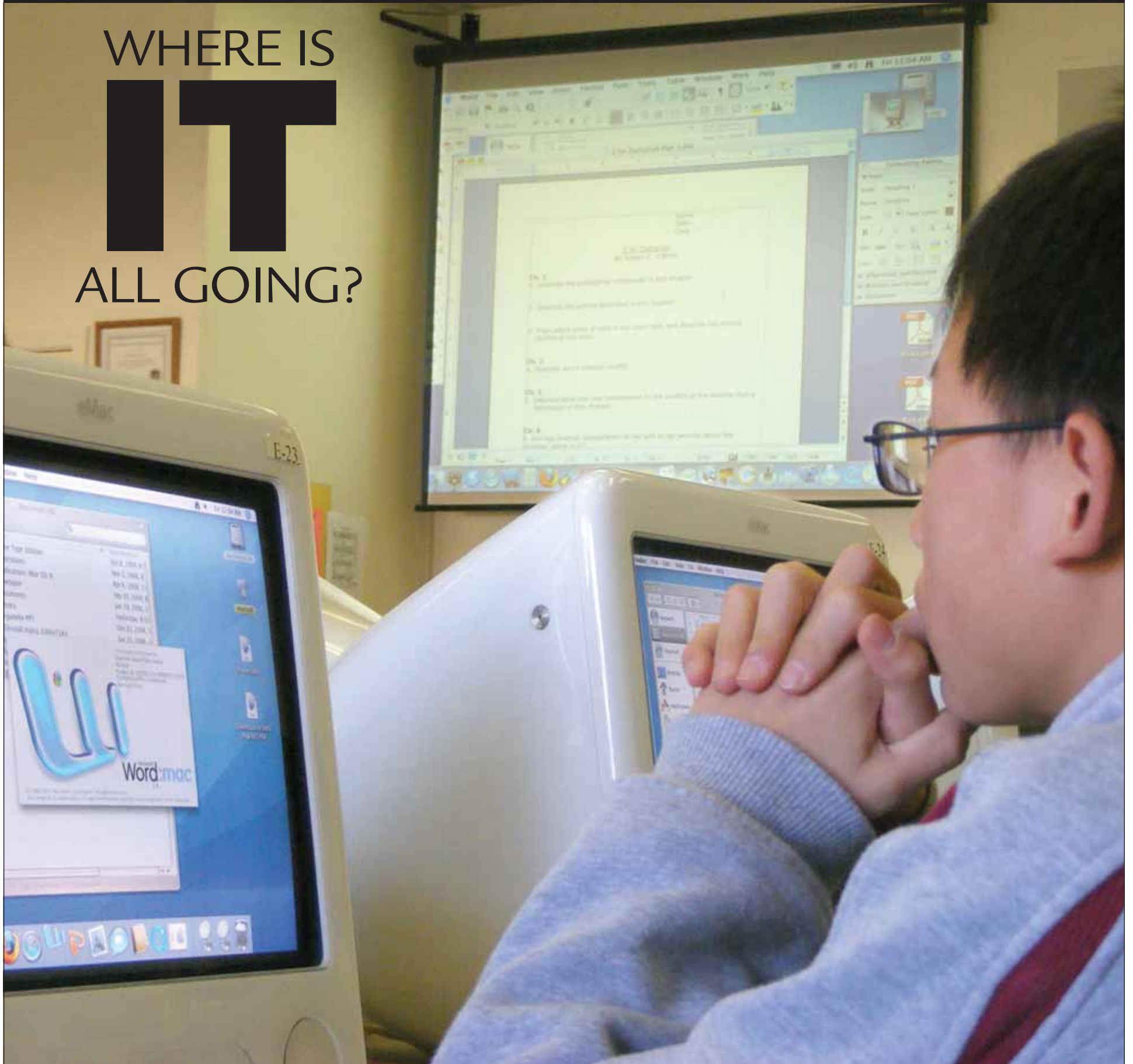
**INSIDE**

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

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WHERE IS  
**IT**  
ALL GOING?



Technological evolution brings a whole new way of learning **PAGE 12**

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# Streetwise

ASKED AT VFW POST 75 MEETING IN DANVILLE VETERANS HALL

## Do you have a good war story?



**Tony Carnemolla**  
U.S. Army Korean War veteran

At Fort Ord during distribution of clothes and shoes, when asked what size combat boots, I said size nine. They replied, "We're out of nines and tens. All we have left is 13DDD." Eighteen of us received 13DDDs. It was like walking around with garage doors on your feet!

## Tami Jenkins

Blue Star Mom, U.S. Army

My son served in Afghanistan as an Army sergeant EOD (explosive ordnance disposal), and I remember him calling me from over there saying, "Mom, I have three kills." I stopped breathing! Then he said, "I killed a chicken, and I killed a rabid dog, and I killed a snake." I was so relieved. But I thought then that my son was not a boy anymore.



**Russell W. Gorman**  
U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, retired

In service, units are periodically inspected for material and also manpower readiness. The two biggest lies in the service, when the inspection groups arrive, are when the chief inspector says, "We are pleased to be here," and the commanding officer of the command says, "We are happy to have you."

## Mac McCuskey

U.S. Marine Corps Korean War veteran

When I came out of an outpost in Korea after days with very little to eat, I went to a mess tent they had set up. When I sat down to order they asked what I wanted, and, half joking, I said, "Two eggs over easy, bacon, toast and real milk." They actually brought it to me! It's the best meal I can remember.



**R. Nathan Greene**  
U.S. Air Force Rescue Pilot

My new bride, Ellen, and our '57 Olds had arrived for duty at an AFB in Turkey. We scheduled an outing with others the next day. As we departed the base I glanced in the rear view mirror and saw only the huge oval of an F-100 intake as it passed low over us with loud afterburners. BANG! My wife was terrified.

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

## About the Cover

A student in Linda Roshay's seventh-grade core class works on a paper during his computer lab period. The lab and the LCD projector Roshay uses to demonstrate work are part of the ever expanding use of technology in schools. SRVUSD IT Director Bruce Chmielesky said students have to share the computer labs in order to get time on the machines, and eventually he'd like to see the district have a 1:1 ratio of students to computers. Photo by Geoff Gillette.

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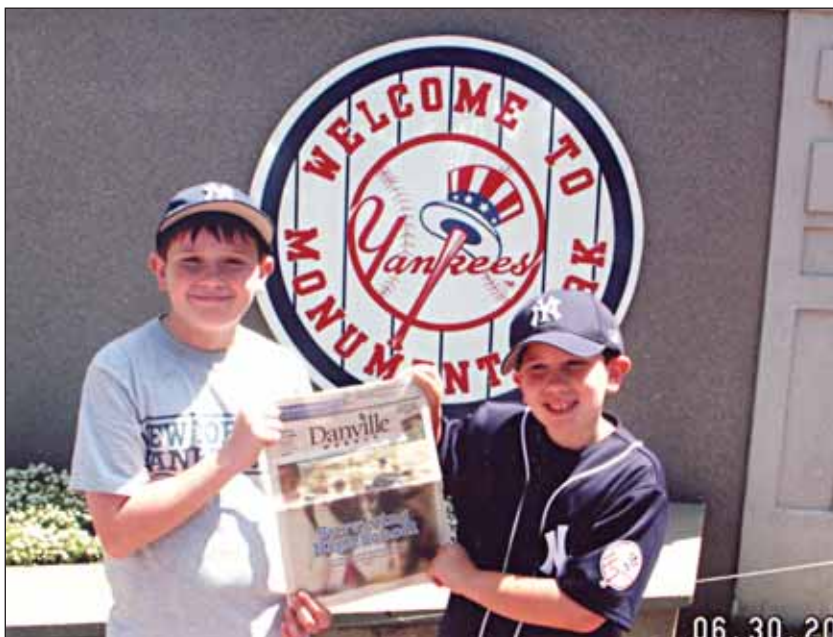
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**Winter wonderland:** On a winter trip to Donner Lake, the Clawson, Dowler, Claussen and Roller families enjoy the Weeklies in the snow.

**Weekly makes history:**

Danville ladies (l-r) Anne Louise Van Hoomissen, Pat Logan, Shirli Caselle, Sue Murray, Bette Lange and Dori Dari enjoy their Weekly aboard the Queen Mary 2 from New York to the Caribbean in January 2008. It was a historic event because three of the Queens left the New York harbor at the same time—one with the Weekly.



**Yankee memories:** Garrett and Grant Rivas and their dad visit one of the great stadiums before it was replaced at the end of the 2008 season. The picture is at Monument Park with Yankee Stadium where a tribute to Yankee greats is maintained.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“He decided he had nothing to lose so he took the purse.”

**Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams** about a purse snatcher at Blackhawk Safeway who had recently lost his job. See story, PAGE 10.

## NEWS DIGEST

### Prisoner's words set to contemporary music

Peace Lutheran Church will present the American premiere of “Words of Realness: A Suite for Choir, Soloist and Orchestra about Faith, Hope and Charity” at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, May 24. The lyrics were written by Spoon Jackson, an inmate at Folsom Prison, and the music is composed and directed by Stefan Safsten with the Swedish Jarva Roster Choir.

“Safsten has taken the poetry of Spoon Jackson, who is serving a life sentence in New Folsom Prison, and set it to music,” said Peace Lutheran Pastor Steve Harms. “This is their second collaboration project together, which you will find contemporary, moving and incredible.”

An eight-piece orchestra accompanies the choir, and it features soloist Rebecca Davant.

“I especially enjoy the various circles of appeal for this concert—music lovers, choral enthusiasts, poets, spiritual beings, justice and prison reform advocates—and those who love Swedish culture,” said Harms.

“God willing, ‘Words of Realness’ will be performed at New Folsom Prison with the inmates and the poet-prisoner present,” he added. “Hopefully it will also be performed at San Quentin Prison.”

Peace Lutheran is located at 3201 Camino Tassajara in Danville. Donations are appreciated.

### Kiwanis taking reservations for 4th of July parade

The Fourth of July is fast approaching and the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley urges groups, businesses and organizations to sign up now to participate in its parade. Register online at [www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org).

The theme of this year's parade will be “Celebrating Our Youth.” In honor of that theme, the Grand Marshal for 2009 will be 1,000 children walking and riding their bikes decorated in 4th of July colors.

Kiwanis Club has recruited parade entries such as the Drill Team Ministries, YKM Lion Dancers from San Francisco and the 59th Army Marching Band for this year's event, and organizers expect about 125 entries in 24 different categories. A Best of Parade award will be given in each category at the Kiwanis luncheon meeting July 9.

Categories include marching unit, band, horse, float, majorette, parade theme, antique auto, bicycle, novelty-comic, animal non-horse, special interest auto, Scout Troop, school, dance/theatrical, family, country club, neighborhood/homeowner association, church group, retail business, service business, sports team, and community service/special interest-nonprofit community organizations, civic or public safety organizations.

The popular parade draws about 20,000 viewers every year. It begins at 9 a.m.

### Project Homeless Connect looking for workers

Organizers of Help Connect People, which helps homeless people connect with vital services, are concerned at the lack of volunteers for this year's event in Richmond on June 16-17.

The one-day event, sponsored by Contra Costa Health Services and the city of Richmond, connects hundreds of people who are experiencing homelessness with food, medical and dental care, substance abuse programs, shelters and more. Last year 621 people were helped in one day.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, greet and direct people, distribute goods and food, assist service providers, and provide general assistance. They are asked to serve at least a half day. Donations are also accepted. Volunteer registration forms are available online at [www.cchealth.org](http://www.cchealth.org) or by calling 313-6124. Completed forms must be received by June 8.

### Corrections

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

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## Voters reject state funding measures

By GEOFF GILLETTE

The state of California's ongoing budget mess got no help Tuesday from voters, who turned down several ballot measures legislators claimed would provide the fiscal tools needed to balance the budget. Local officials say the state level defeat portends calamity at the local level as well.

From the minute returns started coming in both statewide and in Contra Costa County, five of the six ballot items, Measures 1A-1E were behind by 20 points. As the evening wore on, the Yes votes did not narrow the gap. The only measure voters seemed to favor was 1F, which instructs the state to deny raises to legislators when the government is operating in a deficit.

Voter turnout was low statewide with Contra Costa County showing only 28.3 percent turnout.

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich said the election Tuesday night is something lawmakers in Sacramento should sit up and

*Danville, school district to suffer 'devastating' funding gaps*

### Final state vote tallies

Measure 1A	Yes: <b>34.1%</b>	No: <b>65.9%</b>
Measure 1B	Yes: <b>37.4%</b>	No: <b>62.6%</b>
Measure 1C	Yes: <b>35.4%</b>	No: <b>64.6%</b>
Measure 1D	Yes: <b>34.2%</b>	No: <b>65.8%</b>
Measure 1E	Yes: <b>33.6%</b>	No: <b>66.4%</b>
Measure 1F	Yes: <b>73.9%</b>	No: <b>26.1%</b>

notice. "This is sending a clear message to Sacramento," he said. "That message is 'get your house in order.'"

The loss of the additional revenues that would have been provided by the failed measures is expected to be felt all throughout the state, as the money is going to have to come from somewhere.

"Local governments are stuck. The state is going to reach out and steal what they can. They're going to get almost a million dollars out of our general fund alone. That's on top of us cutting \$1.8 million out of our budget," Arnerich stated.

Danville's Town Council has been working on its budget for the past several weeks and has already enacted a number of policies to deal with the expected shortfall.

"I think we have done everything that you would see in a private business, no different than any of us who own busi-

See **INITIATIVES** on Page 6



GEOFF GILLETTE

County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho talks to the gathering at last Thursday evening's Alamo Community Council meeting about forming an Alamo Municipal Advisory Council, or MAC, to serve as a conduit between the county and Alamo.

## Alamo getting a MAC, says Piepho

By GEOFF GILLETTE

If the defeat in March of an attempt to incorporate Alamo into a city left residents with some questions about the future of the area, they may have gotten their answer.

At the May 14 meeting of the Alamo Community Council, Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho laid out a plan to create a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) that would serve as a conduit between the county and Alamo.

Piepho and her staff presented an outline of how they would proceed. The boundaries of the new MAC would follow the same ones laid out in the incorporation proposal, they said.

The MAC would incorporate many of the committees serving the county service areas, such as R7A (parks and recreation), P2B and P5 (police services) and Zone 36 (lighting and landscaping).

"The MAC would act as an umbrella for all of those things," explained Piepho. "A person who had a question on one of those

### *Supervisor says voters chose MAC over incorporation*

areas would go to the MAC."

One area missing from the proposal was a planning element. Alamo Improvement Association President Brad Waite asked how the MAC would handle planning, since the AIA has been working with the county on that. Piepho's Chief of Staff Tomi Van de Brooke said that is something they would add to the list and work out as they evolve the details of the MAC.

"This is just the beginning step," she stated. "Right now we are just trying to drill down and get the details."

Some residents were not pleased with the sense that the MAC would be put into place regardless of residents' wishes.

"You're pretty much saying that you're going to impose a MAC on us," one said.

"That is the direction we're going, yes,"

Piepho responded.

When a resident asked why they could not have a vote on it, Van de Brooke explained that the residents had the chance to incorporate and chose not to. She added that after paying for an election to decide incorporation, it would be expensive to vote again about establishing a MAC.

"I think Mary was very gracious in staying out of incorporation. Our office stayed neutral in that election and did not stir the waters with the idea of this MAC," said Van de Brooke. "If it happens now it's because the supervisor wants a group of people who will represent Alamo."

Piepho said she appreciated the opinions of those who attended the meeting, and that she and her staff will try to incorporate those thoughts into the MAC plan. They are expected to discuss the issue further at the next meeting of the Alamo Community Council at 5 p.m., Thursday, June 11, at the Swain House at Hap Magee Ranch Park. ■

## Landscaping committee discusses disbanding

*Members looking for more information from county*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Frustration over anemic revenues and growing expenses led the members of Alamo's Zone 36 committee to consider disbanding this week. The committee had its regular meeting Tuesday at Hap Magee Ranch Park, but the only item on the agenda was a discussion about allowing the committee to disband; however, they chose to hold off on a vote pending more information from Contra Costa County.

Zone 36 is one of 40 such zones throughout the county created by the Lighting and Landscaping Act. The various zones are funded through a charge per parcel. Many of the zones have no citizen oversight and are run by the county. In Alamo, however, the Zone 36 committee meets periodically to discuss areas of concern and potential projects.

Committee Chairwoman Alicia Watson said due to the lack of funding, none of the plans ever go far.

"I'm extremely frustrated. I have no clue as to how the money has disappeared," she stated. "It makes me wonder about the value of this committee."

Committee member Steve Mick added that the committee is hampered by the fact that it receives very little revenue.

"We have the lowest revenue per parcel in the county," he said. "Right now we're at \$9.36 per parcel." Annually, the revenue for Zone 36 comes out to only \$54,000.

What little funding they have seems to be used up before it can go toward any projects in Alamo. "We have only done one project since I've been on the committee," Watson said.

Mick said that there was an effort to raise the amount of funding for the zone that was put to the voters. In a mail-in ballot, voters were asked to increase the per parcel fee up to \$44. The request was defeated, which left the Zone 36 committee able to do very little.

See **COMMITTEE** on Page 6

## INITIATIVES

Continued from Page 5

nesses. We've gone to employees, we've made cuts to salaries, eliminated bonuses. Done everything to weather this downturn in our economy. And now we need to do more," said Arnerich.

Town Council members will meet next Tuesday in a study session to examine where they can trim now without affecting basic services. Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said the situation facing local governments is just unacceptable.

"We had to look at ways to offset about \$2.5 million less in revenue than we thought we'd have next year. They (Town Council) found ways of doing that that nibble around the edges of service level reductions, and then the state comes along and says, 'Give me another million,'" he said.

If the situation for the town sounds grim, officials with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District are painting a picture of a district less than two years from drowning in a sea of red ink.

"If there's any silver lining to this," said School Superintendent Steve Enoch, "it's that Measure C passed. If it didn't pass we would be in extremely dire straits. As it is, our dire straits are now a year or two out."

In the revised budget put out by Gov. Schwarzenegger last week, the SRVUSD will be taking a \$12 million funding hit. Enoch said that \$6 million will come off the current year's budget and another \$6 million off next year's budget.

"Basically, what this hit to our budget does is offset the federal stimulus money," said Enoch. He added, "Fortunately we have some reserves."

Members of the school board met in special session at 6 p.m. Wednesday to discuss budget scenarios. Enoch said the board would be looking at how to get through the remaining month of this school year.

"My recommendation is that we are in a position to honor our Measure C supporters and maintain our programs next year. Beyond that, it's questionable. I think we're going to be looking at significant program cuts," he explained.

Enoch said they have already begun talks with bargaining units for the district's employees and they are looking at the possibility of rolling back salaries as a means of trimming the massive deficit.

"Right now," he said, "we're just trying to hold this ship together until the economy turns."

State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D., 15th) said until that

happens, the funding gap is going to leave state and local programs in shambles.

"Our state had trouble balancing the budget before the recession hit and the recession just knocked us over the cliff. I don't know any programs that are going to be spared. It's going to be devastating for our schools and for those neediest among us," she said Tuesday night.

Buchanan said the decisive loss of the funding measures, coupled with the overwhelming passage of the measure dictating when elected officials could receive raises sends a message to lawmakers.

"The voters throughout the state have made it clear that they think it's our job as legislators to solve the budget crisis, not theirs," she said. "I think what we need to do in Sacramento is figure out what works and get rid of what doesn't." ■

## COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 5

"If the citizens of Alamo had seen fit to increase our revenues, we'd be in wonderful shape. Right now, we're at a point where we have almost zero ability to initiate any kind of beautification project of any size," Mick explained.

That inability to mount any large scale projects within the zone led the members to consider asking Supervisor Mary N. Piepho to allow the committee to disperse. At

their May 19 meeting, though, they chose to hold off on that course of action.

"We were convinced by the people who showed up to give it another shot. We're going to gather more information, and we're confident that the supervisor is going to listen to us," Mick said. These people were former members of the committee who came to the meeting to tell something about its history.

Watson said they agreed to hold off on voting to disband because

they have questions for the county that need answers. They are asking for more information regarding the financing and expenditures taking place in Zone 36, including how much money is coming in and where it is being used.

One area in particular they would like addressed is the cost allocations for a state-mandated annual engineering report. Currently, Alamo pays about one quarter of the cost for the yearly study, which encompasses the entire county.

"Our little committee is being

asked to pay 26 percent of the cost of the study," Watson said.

Mick added, "That is based on the number of parcels in the district. To my way of thinking that is not a good way to calculate cost."

Rather than vote on the proposal to disband, the committee chose to hold off until its June 9 meeting. Watson said even if the committee votes in favor she's not certain that there is a process for a committee choosing to disperse. She added, "The committee members are all free to resign." ■



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DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

### These little kiddies went to market

Dad Judd Brandeis takes his kiddies shopping Saturday at the Danville Farmers Market, with Sabrina, 4-1/2, (left) in front with Sydney, 6-1/2; holding hands with dad are Owen and Olivia, 2-1/2. The children helped out with the marketing by tasting blueberries (which they decided not to buy), choosing green beans and paying the vendor, picking out flowers for mom, and carrying the purchases in their baskets.

## McNerney requests funds

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) released a list of transportation project funding requests Wednesday that he is submitting for the 11th Congressional District. They will be considered for funding as part of transportation reauthorization legislation that is expected to be considered by Congress this year.

"These projects are essential for maintaining our transportation infrastructure and for creating much-needed jobs in the area," said McNerney. "I'm keeping my commitment to accountability by making

these requests accessible to the public."

The projects and amount requested are as follows:

- East Contra Costa Trail Network (\$5 million)
- El Cerro Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation ( \$1.2 million)
- I-680 Transit Corridor Improvements (\$28 million)
- San Ramon Valley Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation (\$2.2 million)

Submitting requests does not guarantee any funding. ■

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## Marathon chooses Lazarex Cancer Foundation as official charity

Lazarex Cancer Foundation, headquartered in Danville, has been chosen as an official charity beneficiary of the Rock 'n' Roll Seattle marathon June 27.

"We are proud to have the honor of being chosen by the Rock 'n' Roll Seattle team as an official national charity," said Dana Dornsife, president. "Along with other significant national charities, such as Team in Training, Susan G. Komen, and the Lance Armstrong Foundation, we'll help participants get ready for race day and help their favorite charity at the same time."

Lazarex Cancer Foundation provides resources for cancer patients who have been told they have no other options but who refuse to give up. Since its inception, the Foundation has helped end stage patients successfully fight a variety of cancers, including sarcoma, breast and pancreatic cancers.

Dornsife founded Lazarex in 2006 after her brother-in-law Mike Miller was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2005. He was treated successfully and lived long enough for his youngest daughter to remember him. Since then, Dornsife has become a tireless patient advocate for the expansion of available resources on behalf of patients who have been told there is no hope left.

Lazarex also provides financial assistance to defray the cost associated with patient participation in FDA clinical trials. Additionally, the nonprofit organization helps patients navigate their clinical trial options and provides community education and outreach services.

The Lazarex Cancer Foundation Team for Life training and fundraising program has been developed to help participants prepare for the Seattle Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, to complete either a half marathon or a full marathon. Training includes a flexible schedule and the excellent support and guidance of Team for

Life seasoned marathon and fundraising coaches.

Groups or individuals wishing to participate in the Team for Life training program are requested to contact Tami Keeler at 820-4517 or tami@lazarexfoundation.org. The Rock 'n' Roll Seattle Web site is www.rnrseattle.com. ■



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# DIABLO VIEWS

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## A visit with my favorite teacher

First we looked in the classroom window. The teacher was sitting on a chair holding up a book called "Splash" so the kindergartners, sitting on the carpet in front of her, could see the pictures of different animals diving into the water to cool off. The children squirmed a bit but were engaged in the story. A few of them apparently have eyes in the backs of their heads because they began to notice us. So we went in and stood to one side until story time was concluded.

Next was a lesson in what I would call phonics but apparently now is called phonemic awareness and blending. As the teacher put two letters into slots on a special display board to form part of a three-letter word, the children raised their hands wildly to be selected to choose a letter to complete the word. The teacher would only pick a child who was sitting down completely on the floor. Then the class all sounded out the word and read it together.

"M-M-M-A-A-A-P-P-P spells 'map,'" they chanted again and again, going through a series of short words.

Then the teacher called us over. "Boys and girls, we have some very special visitors today," she said in a slow, animated voice. "These are my parents! You know that my name is Miss Ciardelli. Well, this is my mother, Mrs. Ciardelli. And this is my father, Mr. Ciardelli."

"You all have the same name!" several voices exclaimed, collapsing into giggles.

Jim and I were visiting our daughter Zoe in her kindergarten classroom at Reed Elementary School in San Jose. We brought a picture of Zoe (aka Miss Ciardelli) taken on her first morning of kindergarten at Alamo Elementary School. She and her older brother Pepe were peeking out the front door. These kindergartners liked her dress and thought it was funny that she was wearing her fuzzy duck slippers. My question is: How did our Zoe go from being a kindergartner to teaching kindergarten?

Next the children went to their

tables to complete a reading and writing assignment. I think Zoe must have eyes in the back of her head, too. She went from one to the other helping them and answering questions and knew just when to turn to another child. Jim and I also lent a hand. Some of the kids worked steadily and independently, cutting out the figures and gluing them into the squares next to the rhyming words very neatly and without asking any questions. Then they traced over the letters for "the" and then wrote a sentence of their own. Very impressive.

Others dillied and dallied and said they needed help. They wanted to tell me about their families or their pets or their favorite color. One little girl rushed across the room to show me her nail polish—bright pink and very chipped but perfectly matching her pink T-shirt. I admired that Zoe worked with children at so many different levels, in both academic and social skills.

Kindergarten has sure changed since my day. I remember coloring and making things with clay. And taking a break where we each had a little carton of chocolate milk—except for Jimmy L. who had white milk because his father was an orthodontist. We didn't begin to sound out words and receive our first Dick and Jane readers until the first grade. But Zoe said she was reviewing capitalization and punctuation to prepare the children for the district writing test, which entails composing two complete sentences.

Jim and I left after an hour or so, pausing to admire their sunflowers starting to sprout in their little handmade flower pots outside the door. I was exhausted. If Zoe gets more than 20 kids next year, I ain't going back! That is, if she has a class next year. Like many teachers throughout the state without seniority, she received her pink slip in March and is waiting to see if the school district will have an opening for her next year.

Regardless of where and when she works next—hopefully still at Reed Elementary—she's become a teacher and quite a good one at that. Kids love to talk about their favorites—their favorite color and favorite food. I have a new favorite: Miss Ciardelli is my favorite teacher. ■



Danville woman Carol Abshire proudly sits astride the scooter she won in a drawing benefitting the family of slain Oakland Police Officer Irvin Romans, with (l-r) Craig Blackburn, Nikki Romans, Pat Abshire and Bill Blackburn.

## Scooter giveaway benefits Romans family

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A pair of Danville businessmen, wanting to help out in the wake of the tragic death of Oakland Police Sgt. Irvin Romans, recently held a fundraiser and donated all the proceeds to the slain officer's family.

Craig Blackburn said that he and his brother Bill, owners of Pacific Coast Hardware and Auto Parts, decided to hold a barbeque and drawing to raise money for the family.

"We, my brother Bill and I, felt a need to help them because they're our neighbors and they're in need of help," he said.

The Blackburns decided to raffle off a scooter as a fundraiser. The sporty pink Zenen 50cc scooter, adorned with a "Win Me" sign, sat outside Blackburn's store on San Ramon Valley Boulevard to advertise the drawing. Chances were \$10 apiece.

On May 9, the brothers held their barbeque, which

lasted throughout the day. Danville police officers, members of the California Highway Patrol, KGO-TV and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District all joined in at the event, which featured a DJ.

Nikki Romans, the widow of the slain officer, attended as well and helped pick out the name of the winner of the scooter.

Danville resident Carol Abshire was the lucky winner. When she and her husband Pat were informed of their good fortune, they came down to meet with Romans and the Blackburns and to accept their prize.

At the end of the event, the Blackburn brothers presented Nikki Romans with the proceeds from the drawing, which totaled just over \$3,100.

Blackburn said he was pleased with the response from the Danville community in supporting the Romans family. ■

## 'Salute to Blue' gets green light

Event to be held downtown May 31 for family of slain police officer

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Members of the Danville Town Council gave their go ahead Tuesday night to "Salute to Blue," a large scale fundraising effort set for Sunday, May 31, to benefit the family of slain Oakland Police Officer Sgt. Irvin Romans.

At their Tuesday meeting, council members heard from Mark Gigliotti of Salute Entertainment. Gigliotti and Tower Grill owner Gordon Clark are co-sponsoring the event, which will be similar to the wine strolls that take place in Danville but on a larger scale with a band and games.

"We're organizing this event for the Romans family," said Gigliotti. "A lot of the merchants are behind us. We're working with the rest to let them know about it." He added, "Some of the merchants are going to be opening up for that day. Father Nature's is opening that night for the first time for dinner."

Gigliotti was asking that the town approve closing down Hartz Avenue from south of the Diablo Road intersection to north of the Church

Street intersection. East Prospect will be closed from west of Front Street to west of Hartz Avenue.

While the event itself is expected to run from 3-7 p.m., Town Transportation Director Tai Williams suggested that the roads be closed from 1-8 p.m. for public safety.

Council members expressed their concern that any wine- or alcohol-related activities be confined to restaurants. Gigliotti explained that they will run the event similarly to the wine strolls, which are controlled in much the same way. Wristbands will be sold allowing participants access to the various wine stops through the downtown. The wristbands cost \$35 per single or \$60 per couple.

He added that merchants will have the opportunity to get a permit to serve wine during the event, something expected to generate traffic among the shops and stores in the downtown.

Councilwoman Karen Stepper said she supported the idea of helping Sgt. Romans' family, but questioned the need for closing off

streets in the downtown during the spring Sunday afternoon. "I've seen us doing things like this without a street closure," she said.

Gigliotti explained that the reason for the closure was that they will be staging their entertainment, a Neil Diamond cover band called Super Diamonds, in the street at the intersection of Hartz Avenue and Diablo Road.

"We understand that this is a prime time for the merchants," he said. "That's why we're going to be having games—to encourage families to come out and join in."

Councilwoman Candace Andersen agreed that while the town is reticent to shut down the major arterials, an event like this one warrants such measures.

"This is a one-time event, not an annual event. I'm not opposed to it at all," she said.

The council gave their unanimous approval for the street closures for the event. Afterward, Stepper requested that a study be done after the event to see what effect, if any, it had on downtown merchants. ■

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Year of the tree

In a time when people are trusting their government less and less, it was heartening to see the system work in Danville the way it is supposed to. One fine example of this is the recent interactions between the Town Council and the Planning Commission in regards to the town's strongly debated Tree Ordinance.

The discussion about the Tree Ordinance sprouted at a recent Danville Planning Commission meeting that addressed two different tree issues in one evening—with widely different results.

That night a couple was asking for permission to cut down a coast redwood tree on their property line that blocks the sunlight. Their yard is ringed by several redwoods and they were requesting permission to remove one. The commission listened to the testimony and debated this issue for one hour and then voted against letting them remove the tree, saying the town's Tree Ordinance prevented them from doing so. They decided there was no reason to overrule the staff's interpretation of the law when it first denied the couple permission to remove the tree.

Also on the agenda was final approval for development of the Weber Property, which included the necessity of cutting down 97 trees from the 15 acres in order to carry out plans for the Davidon project. It only took about 15 minutes for the commission to approve the development. Commission members explained that the ordinance allows trees to be removed to allow development of a property.

The timing of the two issues on the same planning agenda was perhaps unfortunate, putting the developers' tree cutting in the worst possible light. But it was fortuitous because the Planning Commission saw the discrepancy and began to rethink the tree removal issue.

But the story didn't end here. The couple next pleaded their case to the Town Council, whose members also sympathized. When Planning Commissioner Bob Nichols presented the issue to the council members, he commented that this seemed to be the year of the tree.

The council asked the Planning Commission for a change in the town's Tree Ordinance, to remove coast redwoods from the list of protected species since they are not native to Danville and have extensive root systems that can cause damage to nearby buildings. The ordinance already prohibits removing mature trees, based on their diameters.

The issue went back to the Planning Commission last week where they were expected to remove coast redwoods from the protected species list as directed by council. But in a surprise move, the commission members decided that the problem was not just the coast redwoods but the inflexibility of the ordinance itself. They continued their discussion on the matter and asked town staff to suggest ways of reworking the law so they could use common sense in addressing appeals to it.

The commission is to be commended for its handling of the issue. Town Council members knew they wanted to be able to help the couple, and the Planning Commission accepted this responsibility. They were proactive in looking for a solution not just in this case but in future interpretations of the Tree Ordinance.

### Code of ethics

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

## LETTERS

### Take walk for vitamin D

Dear Editor:

In your April 10 edition, there was an article about a couple who wanted to remove a redwood tree from their neighbor's back yard because it was shading their yard. I had to laugh at the woman's "reason" for wanting it removed. She said she wanted to get more vitamin D. She said she had been reading about its health benefits.

Well, she could get her vitamin D and some exercise that would be good for her heart simply by taking a 20-minute walk every day. That would benefit her in several

ways without having to cut down a tree. She says she is interested in her health. Well, if she was reading about vitamin D, perhaps she has also come across an article or two on Global warming. Plants are the only "filter" we have to clean the pollution we put in the air. They take in our pollution and give us back oxygen.

Somehow, with the amount of air cleaning a redwood tree could do vs. the 20 minutes of sunshine she needs for vitamin D, it does not seem like a smart choice to cut down the tree.

**Lynda Esposito**  
Danville

## YOUR TURN

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition. Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com) or mail to 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526. Include name, address and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square. For more information, contact Dolores Fox Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 229.

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killed by exploding pool filter.

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Safeway purse snatcher nabbed by police

A pair of Livermore men are being held in connection with the theft of a purse from an elderly woman shopping at the Safeway store on Camino Tassajara.

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said around 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, San Ramon Motorcycle Patrolman Dave White saw a male subject run out of the Safeway store and jump into a waiting auto. When the auto sped away, the officer followed and effected a traffic stop at the nearby Arco Station. Danville police officers were contacted and dispatched to provide assistance.

While conversing with the driver, identified as Daniel Barajas, 33, White noticed a purse lying on the seat. He asked Barajas and his passenger, identified as Kyle J. Ludwig, 24, about the purse. Both men appeared nervous and evaded the question, so White asked them to leave the auto.

When Danville officers arrived, they separated the two men and began a canvass of the area, looking for a person missing a purse. At the Safeway store, the elderly victim confirmed that a man matching Ludwig's description had stolen the purse from her cart and run off.

When confronted, Ludwig confessed to officers, according to reports. Williams said that Ludwig claimed he had recently lost his job and was down on his luck.

"He said he saw the victim and decided he had nothing to lose so he took the purse," Williams stated.

Barajas was charged with robbery and parole violation. Ludwig was charged with robbery. Both were taken to Martinez Detention Center.

—Geoff Gillette

## POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

### Sunday, May 10

- Petty theft from vehicle on La Pera Cir. at 1:39 p.m.
- Warrant, arrest, on Ilo Lane at 2:47 p.m.

### Monday, May 11

- Vandalism on Hartz Way and Railroad Ave. at 7:48 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Greenbrook Dr. at 11:45 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:12 p.m.
- Petty theft on Hartley Dr. at 7:27 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 12

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 4:12 p.m.
- Petty theft on Danville Blvd. at 10:15 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Chevron at 11:42 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 13

- Auto burglary on Edinburgh Cir. at 4:20 a.m. and 4:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 7:50 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Sutton Cir. at 8:02 a.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:07 a.m.
- Battery on 500 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:37 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on northbound I-680 off ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 4:39 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Hartz Ave. and School St. at 11:14 p.m.

### Thursday, May 14

- Petty theft from vehicle on Matadera Ct. at 3:12 a.m.
- Vandalism on Murcia Ct. at 7:05 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 4:21 p.m.
- Warrant arrest, on Danville Blvd. at 7:21 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 7:57 p.m.

### Friday, May 15

- Vandalism on Glasgow Cir. at 12:11 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 8:14 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Crow Canyon Rd. and Dougherty at 9:46 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Linda Mesa Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 9:44 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Rose Ave. at 2:09 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 4:46 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Hunters Ter. At 11:12 p.m.

### Saturday, May 16

- Drunk in public, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 5:37 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 7:49 p.m.
- Vandalism on Freitas Rd. and Fretias Ct. at 9:30 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Eunice B. Elworthy

Eunice B. Elworthy, a 50-year resident of Alamo, died April 17 at the age of 83.

She was born Feb. 17, 1926, in Ink, Ark. She previously lived in Gustine and was a 50-year Alamo resident. She was a homemaker for 63 years and an avid cook.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Elworthy of Alamo; brothers John Brewer of Modesto, James Brewer of Modesto; sisters Gladys Mendonca of Modesto, Onnie Fontes of Modesto, Lucille Schwartz of San Ramon, Melba Blan of Waterford; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Darlene Coelho.

A Memorial Service was held May 9 at Hillview Funeral Chapel in Gustine. Remembrances may be made to Our Lady of Miracles Educational Center, 370 Linden Ave., Gustine 95322.

### Mary Virginia SinClair Schutz (Jinny)

Mary Virginia SinClair Schutz (Jinny), a resident of Danville, died April 18 at the age of 86.

She was born Aug. 20, 1922, in Southern California. She was raised on the beaches, in the city, and on farms in California. When she was 17 she met George W. Schutz, a ROTC student at Cal. After three months they married in Oakland. She followed George to Panama and various other parts of the world during the war before they settled down in Berkeley. In 1950 when they had two young children they relocated to Danville. She worked for San Ramon High School for 21 years. She was an avid tennis player, swimmer and traveler, sharing life with George for 66 years.

She is survived by her daughter Jan Hennefer of Castro Valley; son Paul Schutz of Santa Barbara; one granddaughter in Santa Barbara; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial donations can be sent to the Hospice of the East Bay.

### Susan Duffy Ward

Susan Duffy Ward, a resident of Danville, died peacefully at the age of 80 just six weeks following the passing of her beloved husband Joseph Ward on April 26.

She was born Aug. 7, 1928, in Chicago, Ill., the eldest of six children. She graduated from Barat College in Lake Forest, Ill., earning a degree in liberal arts. On Feb. 3, 1951, she married Joseph Ward and they were married for 59 years. After moving to California in 1964, she spent most of her time volunteering at St. Isidore School, where her six children attended, her church and many community, nonprofit organizations. In her spare time, she enjoyed playing cards with friends, doting on her

grandchildren, weekends in Carmel and a good game of tennis.

She was predeceased by her husband Joseph Ward; sisters Patricia and Carol; and brothers Joseph and William. She is survived by her six children, sons Mike Ward (MaryEllen), Jim Ward (Esther), Tom Ward (Joan); daughters Nancy Moore (John), Patti Rinetti (Rick), Mary Beaver (Rick); sister Marjorie; and nine grandchildren.

A rosary and vigil were held April 30 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville and a funeral Mass was celebrated May 1. Memorial donations can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association in her name.

### Elaine Begun

Elaine Begun, a resident of Danville, died at home surrounded by family April 27 at the age of 73.

She was born March 14, 1936, in Chicago, Ill., and moved with her parents to San Francisco at a young age. She grew up in the Sunset District, attended Lincoln High School and at age 19, married Jay Begun, a native San Franciscan to whom she was married for almost 54 years. They raised three children and settled in Westlake and then Millbrae, before moving to Alamo in 1978 where she enjoyed the warmer weather (and the proximity to Nordstrom). She loved to travel, shop, and design and decorate homes, but her passion, above all else, was spending time with her seven grandchildren.

She is survived by husband Jay; children Suzi and Rob Goldstein, Ken and Cathy Begun, Darryn and Ann Begun; seven grandchildren; sister Judi and Don Caler; and many wonderful friends.

A memorial service was held April 30 at Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. There was a private burial. Memorial contributions can be sent to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org) or 2141 Rosecrans Ave, Suite 7000, El Segundo, CA 90245.

### Earnest Wesley Allen

Earnest Wesley Allen, a resident of Danville, died peacefully with his devoted girlfriend Ellen Putnam at his bedside April 27 at the age of 74.

He was born March 17, 1935, in Denver and was raised by his mother. They moved to San Leandro where he graduated from San Leandro High School. He married his high school sweetheart, Illene DeMello, on Sept. 5, 1954, just before he entered the Army. After several years in the Army, he returned to UC Berkeley where he obtained a Doctorate of Pharmacy and began working for Longs Drugs. They moved to their dream home overlooking the 14th tee of the Crow Canyon Country Club, where he was one of the original members and enjoyed many close friends while playing tennis and golf.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ilene and his two grandchildren Paul Allen and Christopher Allen. He is survived by his two sons Earnest

and Trebor Allen, Earnest's wife Patricia Allen and son Sean Allen.

A memorial was held May 2 at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville.

### Arthur 'Ed' Ash

Arthur "Ed" Ash, a resident of Danville, died after a long illness at the age of 82.

He was born on July 12, 1927, near Verden, Okla., to Arthur and Minnie Ash. After serving in the Navy, he married Lenora Ford in 1950 and worked as an engineer in the construction industry on projects across the country. They moved to Danville in 1969 where he became the president of Trans-Dyn Construction.

He is survived by his sister Edna (Ash) Coit; children Paul Ash, Donna Sabatasso, and Kelly Ash; and four grandchildren. A reception was held in his memory on May 6 at Wilson & Kratzer Mortuary in Danville. Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association of California.

### James C. Perley

James C. Perley, a resident of Danville, died unexpectedly in his sleep April 29 at the age of 46.

He was born April 1, 1963, and raised in Newark. He was passionate about life, his family, his music, and his career in law, following his father's footsteps. He was colorful in everything he did, and was always laughing.

He is survived by his wife Robi; and four young children, James II, 12; Hunter, 11; Ivanhoe Connor, 9; and Carlynn, 2. He is also survived by his mother Patricia; sisters Sheri, Sandra and Serena; brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held May 8 at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Memorial donations can be made to the James C. Perley Children Memorial Fund, Bank of the West, 307 Diablo Road, Danville 94526.

### Gail Correia

Gail Correia, a resident of Diablo, died after a long battle with pancreatic cancer May 14 at the age of 76.

She was born Aug. 9, 1932, in Alameda and raised in Oakland. Her passion in life was bargain shopping and Japanese flower arranging. She was the former president of Ikebana International SF Bay Area Chapter.

She was loved by her husband of 57 years, Norman Correia; daughters, Alicia, Wanda and Kathleen; and grandchildren Joshua and Samara. She is also survived by her best friend and sister, Joyce Bergstrom; as well as her many friends and relatives. A celebration of her life was held May 20 at Diablo Country Club.



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The Danville Weekly is once again asking you to vote for the best places to eat, drink, shop and spend time in Danville, Diablo, Blackhawk and Alamo.

Voters can go online to [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com) through May 25 to cast votes. The winners will be published in the June 19 edition of the Danville Weekly.

## VOTE ONLINE

[www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

### Around town

Best auto dealership  
Best car repair  
Best car wash  
Best Danville Area real estate office/Realtor  
Best financial planner  
Best golf course  
Best mortgage broker/brokerage  
Best pet groomer  
Best pet sitter  
Best place to get a traffic ticket  
Best place to have a first date  
Best place to people watch  
Best swim school  
Best tire store/service center  
Best travel planner  
Best tutoring school  
Best veterinarian

### Specialty retail

Best art gallery  
Best athletic apparel store  
Best bicycle shop  
Best bookstore  
Best children's clothing store  
Best discount store  
Best florist  
Best grocery store  
Best hobby/craft store  
Best home accessory store  
Best jewelry store  
Best maternity store  
Best men's clothing store  
Best pet store

Best place to buy a gift  
Best shoe store  
Best wine store  
Best women's clothing store

### Personal care and pampering

Best day spa  
Best hair salon for women  
Best hair salon for men  
Best manicure/pedicure  
Best medical spa

### Epicure

Best American food restaurant  
Best bakery  
Best breakfast  
Best burger  
Best California cuisine/innovative dining  
Best Chinese restaurant  
Best deli  
Best dessert  
Best French restaurant  
Best fresh produce  
Best ice cream/yogurt shop  
Best independent coffee house  
Best Italian restaurant  
Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern restaurant  
Best Mexican restaurant  
Best outdoor dining  
Best personal chef  
Best pizza  
Best place for a business lunch

Best romantic restaurant  
Best salad  
Best sushi/Japanese restaurant  
Best takeout  
Best Thai restaurant  
Best wine bar

### Let's Get Physical

Best bike or walking trail  
Best fitness club  
Best martial arts studio  
Best personal trainer  
Best place to jog  
Best place to walk a dog

### At home

Best antiques store  
Best computer repair  
Best home consignment shop  
Best flooring store  
Best hardware store  
Best home furnishings  
Best kitchen/bath remodeler  
Best landscaper/designer  
Best interior designer  
Best remodeling contractor

### Stepping Out

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Best place for a picnic  
Best place for dancing  
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Danville Weekly  
**READERS CHOICE**  
2008

# WHERE IS IT ALL GOING?

**Technological evolution  
brings a whole new  
way of learning**



Students in Lesly Phillips' Yearbook class at Charlotte Wood Middle School look at a page layout. Phillips' class introduces the students to both the design and publishing aspects of putting out the school's annual. The computers in the classroom are networked together so the students can work on individual pages that are later combined.

**“How in the world can teaching not change when our kids have the ability to Google any single topic that is covered and bring down expert opinions, competing opinions, video, current events.”**

**Steve Enoch,**  
Superintendent of the San Ramon Valley  
Unified School District

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

As technology has boomed during the past 20 years, the tools of education have changed along with it. Chalkboards have given way to white boards or screen projectors connected to computers that allow instant display of the information from either workbooks or the World Wide Web.

Students, too, are bringing more high powered gadgets into both the classroom and home study environments. The average student may find themselves Googling, IM'ing, texting, twittering and listening to music all while working on the day's assignment.

The questions many educators face today are what place should technology have in the classroom, and have teaching methods adapted to the change in technological level and the amount of information readily available to today's students?

San Ramon Valley Unified School District Superintendent Steve Enoch said he thinks incorporating technological advances as well as adapting the teaching model to better utilize those advances are crucial to preparing students for life in today's digital world.

“I don't want to have technology just to say we have technology,” he explained. “I'm interested in making sure we prepare kids for a world that is much different than I grew up in.”

Enoch said that world is one that is flat, a reference to books by Thomas L. Friedman, “The World is Flat” and “Hot, Flat and Crowded.” Friedman paints a picture of a world where technology is creating a global economic environment.

“Our students are going to need to be extremely comfortable in a multi-cultural globally competitive environment,” Enoch said. “That's what we're trying to do—prepare kids for the 21st century. I want to prepare our kids for the future, not our past.”

Enoch, along with district Technology Director Bruce Chmielesky, envision a school system called 21st Century learning, an educational culture where in addition to working on the three Rs, students are working toward the 3 Cs: Communication, Collaboration and Creation.

“That is what our students are going to need in the future. Employers are looking for people who can communicate effectively and powerfully and collaborate with people who are both nearby and far away,” Enoch stated.

Chmielesky said that what they are looking to do is incorporate the vast array of information available into the classroom, making learning more engaging and enticing.

“What we're wanting to be able to do with this 21st Century learning is to tap into kids' creativity and imagination,” he said.

Enoch refers to the students of today as “digital natives,” children who have grown up with the burgeoning technology movement and have already incorporated it into their everyday lives. At least in their home environment.

“I think a lot our kids live in two worlds,” he explained. “They go to school and frankly it's a little bit of the Rip Van Winkle effect. You or I could be dropped back into high school and it looks and feels a lot like when you or I were in high school. Then they go home and their world is all about being digitally and socially connected through these digital neighborhoods.”

Students are able to get access to information from myriad online sources, reference Web sites and blogs and come across thoughts and opinions and bring them into play. This gives them access to hundreds of thousands of ideas and concepts daily. Enoch said teachers need to be able to bring that accessibility into the classroom and channel it.

“I often talk about what I call ‘the Google question.’ How in the world can teaching not change when our kids have the ability to Google any single topic that is covered and bring down expert opinions, competing opinions, video, current events. Why would we pretend teaching wouldn't change in that environment?”

Enoch said the days of the teaching model where the instructor is the sole arbiter of knowledge are over, and will need to be replaced by a teacher who is more of a facilitator in navigating through the galaxy of information at students' fingertips.

He feels this model can work in the San Ramon Valley school district. “A lot of our parents make a living through technology. They recognize it is probably one of the few areas where the district is not where it should be.”

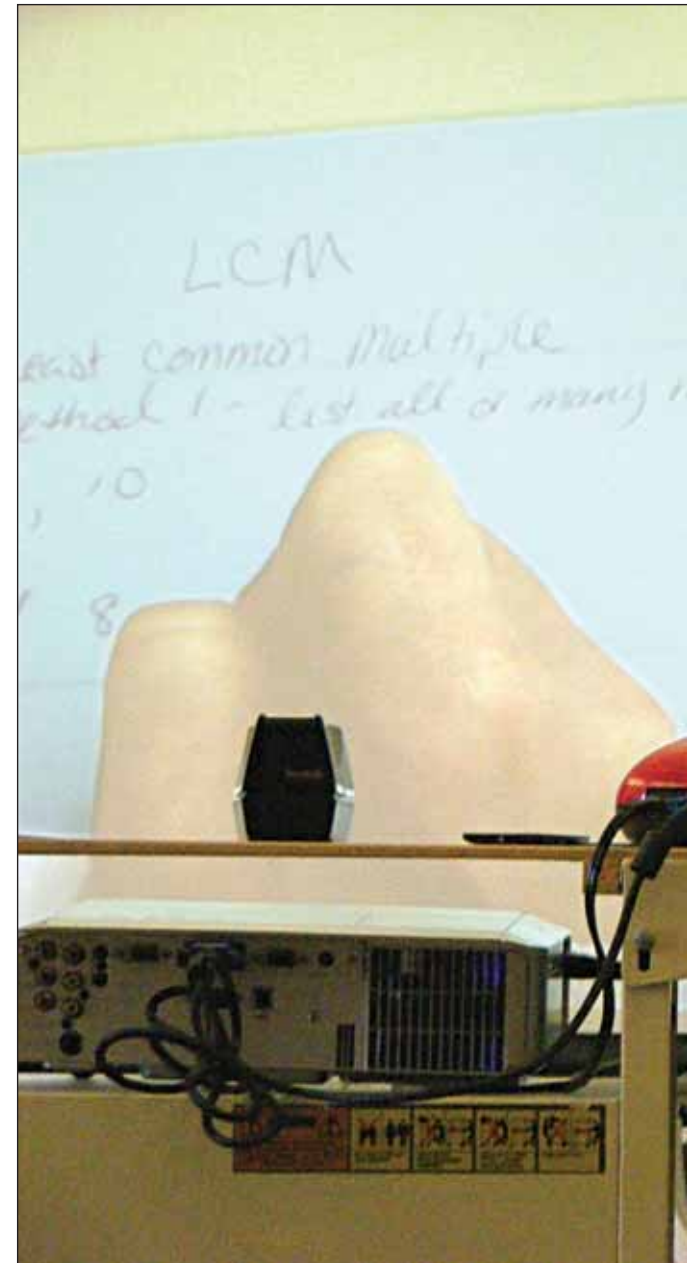
He added that his statement was not intended as a dig at the district, but just an observation that in order for the district to be fully engaged in 21st Century learning it will need to adapt.

Reaction among the teaching staff has been mixed, with some embracing the idea of enhanced technology teaching, while others are reticent to move away from what they were trained to do and what they know as part of their jobs.

Enoch said such feedback is not cause for concern. Generally, he said, they give first crack at new systems to teachers who are enthusiastic about them.

“We like to take the wild horses who want to run and support them,” he said. “We let them put in place models of the programs we want to have so that others can see how they run.”

Technology was the focus of teacher concern at the Nov. 18 meeting of the school board. Among the concerns were a lack of training, time lost due to system crashes, and a huge increase in parent e-mails. What it came down to for many of the in-



structors was that the increase in technology was coming at the price of many additional hours of work for the teachers.

Chmielesky said that since coming on board in November the district has been working to ensure that their systems are solid and that teachers have access to help if there is a problem. As for the concerns of time spent with a deluge of e-mail, he said that is a product of the changing methods of communication.

“There is certainly the danger of over-communication,” he stated. “Part of it is training the parents as to what is a reasonable expectation.”

Both Enoch and Chmielesky admit there are risks inherent in increasing the presence of Internet and other media in the classroom, but they feel that if the students are engaged and are using the access they are given in the pursuit of expressing a topic or continuing a line of questioning, the incidents of abuse will decrease.

Already many schools have instituted policies against cyberbullying and “sexting,” where students utilize e-mail, instant messages or texting to demean or harass other students. Chmielesky said that they are aware of the concerns along those lines and they are quick to react when they get reports of it.

“We aren't cyber-cops,” he said. “This is going to be a tough transition. But if we focus on the academics, the students will begin to see the Web and other media as powerful knowledge tools.”

A major stumbling block to the school district making the transition to a more digital environment is a problem as old as civilization itself—money. With state and federal funds continuing to dry up and property tax resources dwindling as well, the available dollars in the district have to go toward maintaining the infrastructure of the school and paying salaries.

The passage of Measure C gave the district a small amount of breathing space, but the overall picture remains bleak. Without increased funding and the ability to make sweeping changes that would cost in the millions of dollars, how can the district continue to move toward this adaptive strategy and changed teaching model?

Enoch said there are no easy answers.

“Funding is a problem, for certain. But that doesn't change the fact that the world is changing, getting flatter, and our students need to be prepared to compete for jobs with people from all over the world,” he said. “So the question isn't how can we make this change, it's how can we not?” ■



PHOTOS BY GEOFF GILLETTE

**Above:** Seventh-grade math teacher Jill Becker demonstrates a principle to her class using a document camera, which is mounted on her desk and projects onto the whiteboard behind her. District IT Director Bruce Chmielecky said that eventually students may take paperless tests using projectors and handheld controllers keyed to each student.

**Below:** District IT Director Bruce Chmielecky shows the server room at the school district offices on Old Orchard Road. There are similar rooms at different locations around the district, tying all of the computers together. This allows teachers and administrators a greater degree of access and communication than they had previously.



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# Calendar

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

## Art

**LINDSAY DIRKX BROWN ART GALLERY** Stop by the art gallery located inside the San Ramon Community Center and enjoy a different gallery exhibit each month. Keiko Stong and be featured June 1-30 with a reception from 2-4 p.m., June 6; James Gayles' abstracts July 1-31 with a reception from 5-7 p.m., July 11; and Mary Claire Stotler's plein-air art Aug. 2-31 with a reception from 2-4 p.m., Aug. 9. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m.-9

p.m., Monday-Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and is located at 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

**EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS 2009** A self-guided tour of local artists' studios will happen from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7 and 13-14, at various East Bay locations. East Bay Open Studios is an opportunity to visit artists' studios, meet artists, buy art, view artwork, and learn about the artistic process in your neighborhood, city and across the region. This event is free. Visit [www.proartgallery.org](http://www.proartgallery.org).

## Author Visit

**RAKESTRAW BOOKS** The bookstore will host Matt Lewis and Renato Poliafito, authors of "Baked: New Frontiers in Baking," Tuesday, May 26; at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. Reservations are recommended; call 837-7337.

## Camps

**CAMP EDGE VACATION BIBLE CAMP** Children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to participate in

Danville Congregational Church's Camp Edge from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 15-19, at the church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Cost is \$50 with fee assistance available. Children will have fun learning Bible stories, crafts, games, songs and snacks. Call 837-6944 or visit [www.danvillechurch.com](http://www.danvillechurch.com).

**SAN RAMON VALLEY YMCA SUMMER CAMPS** The YMCA is gearing up for a busy summer with a full slate of half-day specialty camps. Camps include

sports, legos, robots, theater, wrestling, fashion, art, chess, music, Shakespeare and more. For information, call 831-1100.

## Classes

**DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS FOR YARDS** Come and learn about drought tolerant plants for yards from 10:30-11 a.m., every Saturday, at Sunset Color, 1435 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. These classes are free. Call 914-0035 or visit [www.sunsetcolor.com](http://www.sunsetcolor.com).

# SUMMER FUN KIDS & TEENS CAMPS



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**UNDERSTANDING GRIEF** Hospice of the East Bay will host a class on understanding grief for people who are bereaved, experiencing grief and people who want to support a friend from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, at the Pleasant Hill location, 3470 Buskirk Ave. Pre-registration is required; call 887-5681.

## Clubs

**ALAMO CRIBBAGE CLUB** The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 284-7044 or e-mail almoy1@prodigy.net.

**ALAMO ROTARY** The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK** BDN is a group of professionals that share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 648-8316 or visit [www.bdndanville.com](http://www.bdndanville.com).

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING** Learn how to earn an extraordinary income by starting your own business from 7-8 p.m., every Thursday, at Hotel Sierra, 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. These meetings are free. Call 548-3511 or e-mail Roy at [roy@griesseltiffanygroup.com](mailto:roy@griesseltiffanygroup.com).

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB** This club will host guest speaker U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher at its next meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 28, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$12 for members; \$18 for non-members; and \$7 for students. Call (415) 597-6705 or visit [www.commonwealthclub.org](http://www.commonwealthclub.org).

**DANVILLE AM TOASTMASTERS CLUB** The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543, or [dmik210@yahoo.com](mailto:dmik210@yahoo.com) or [www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org](http://www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org).

**DANVILLE JOB'S DAUGHTERS** Job's Daughters International is an organization for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips and more. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505 or email [IOJD247@yahoo.com](mailto:IOJD247@yahoo.com).

**DANVILLE MID-DAY REFERRAL GROUP, BNI** Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call Eric Samuels at 946-1400.

**DANVILLE PM TOASTMASTER CLUB #1785** The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information, call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit [www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com](http://www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com).

**DIABLO VIEW TOASTMASTERS AM** Afraid of public speaking? Lose your fears and develop communication

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Honor those who have fallen:** A Memorial Day event will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, May 25, at Oak Hill Park in Danville. The town would like people to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy a special ceremony, live music and entertainment; bring a picnic lunch. Visit [www.vnvdv.com](http://www.vnvdv.com). Also, the National Wings of Freedom Tour will be held May 24-26, at the Livermore Municipal Airport, 636 Terminal Circle. Ground tours and displays will be open from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, May 24; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, May 25-26. Cost is a \$12 donation for adults; \$6 donation for children under 12 years old. Visit [www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org).

and leadership skills by meeting with the Diablo View Toastmasters from 7:55-9 a.m., every Tuesday, at 2333 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call Sahar Kordahi, VP of Membership, at 315-8730.

**EAST BAY SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION** This group meets for dinner, networking and a speaker at 5:30 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Non-members are encouraged to attend. For information, visit [www.ebstc.org](http://www.ebstc.org).

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

**MOMS CLUB OF DANVILLE-TASSAJARA** Come join a support group for stay-at-home moms. It meets at 10 a.m., the last Tuesday of every month; moms with children of all ages are welcome. Dues are \$28 per year. E-mail Angeline at [hal2006@att.net](mailto:hal2006@att.net).

**SAN RAMON VALLEY ROTARY CLUB** This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. For information, contact Dany Gregory at 899-6771 or [danygregory1@att.net](mailto:danygregory1@att.net).

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, POST 75** The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## Concerts

**'WORDS OF REALNESS'** Peace Lutheran Church will host the Swedish Choir, Jarva Roster on tour, SoundSFound Orchestra performing a composition based on the poetry of a Folsom Prison inmate as part of its Jazz at Peace concert series at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, May 24, at the church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This concert is free. Call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

**50TH ANNIVERSARY FREE CONCERT** Diablo Theatre Company (formerly Diablo Light Opera Company) will host a free concert to celebrate its 50th anniversary at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at Civic Park, at Civic Drive at Broadway, in Walnut Creek. Seating will begin at 4 p.m. Call 944-1565.

**BIG BAND CELEBRATION** Town of Danville and the San Ramon Valley High School Jazz Program will present a Big Band Celebration featuring music from the '20s, '30s and '40s at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 29, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Light refreshments will be served. Call 314-3400.

**ST. PETERSBURG MEN'S ENSEMBLE VISITS ALAMO** The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble will perform at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, in the sanctuary at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. This concert is free. Call 837-5243 or visit [www.petersburg-ensemble.narod.ru](http://www.petersburg-ensemble.narod.ru).

## Events

**10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Museum of the San Ramon Valley will celebrate its 10 year anniversary from noon-5 p.m., Sunday, June 7, at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. There will be train and hay rides, ice cream, live music

and a reenactment of the original ribbon cutting ceremony. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsvr.org](http://www.museumsvr.org).

**2009 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAREER AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** 6th Annual Northern California Career and Leadership Summit will be held from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville. This event is free, for people looking for jobs; employers will be on hand to look at resumes. Visit [www.job-connections.org](http://www.job-connections.org).

**ART AND WIND FESTIVAL** The Art and Wind Festival will be flying in Memorial Day weekend from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday-Monday, May 24-25, at San Ramon Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. There will be entertainment on three stages, large kids zones, kite flying demos and a hot air balloon launch at 6 a.m. on May 25. Call 973-3200 or visit [www.artandwind.com](http://www.artandwind.com).

**CELEBRATION AT THE RANCH** A fun-filled afternoon of live music, dancing and games in honor of National Cancer Survivors' Day will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at Little Hills Ranch, 18013 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. The day will include entertainment for the whole family and a free lunch. Call 933-0107.

**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. Proceeds benefit Contra Costa charities. Call Anita at 837-1242.

**DOGGIE NIGHT** Discover Danville presents Doggie Night from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, June 11, in downtown Danville beginning at Molly's Pup-purr-ee, 411 Hartz Ave. Walk to stores for free dog treats, music,

booths and raffles. Visit [www.discoverdanvilleca.com](http://www.discoverdanvilleca.com).

**FREE E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT** Don't know what to do with that old computer, monitor, or TV? Drop them off at one a free E-Waste Collection Events from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the first Saturday of every month, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd. Call (510) 351-7511 or visit [www.noewaste.com](http://www.noewaste.com).

## Exhibits

**ART AND ARTISTS OF THE VALLEY** "Visions" is the final segment of the Art and Artists of the Valley exhibit on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley until May 29. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday; located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for students; \$1 for children or \$5 for families. Call 837-3750.

**EAGLE DAY** Visitors to Lindsay Wildlife Museum are sure to have an extraordinary experience with its Golden and Bald Eagle on Monday, May 25, at the museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. These eagles will be on display where kids can participate in live shows, activities and feeding demonstrations. Admission is \$5-\$7. Call 935-1978 or visit [www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org).

## Fundraisers

**CHARITY BOWL** San Ramon Valley Firefighters will host a fundraising charity bowl from 2-6 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at Danville Bowl, 200 Boone Court. Families will be able to bowl and a team tournament will follow afterward. Proceeds will benefit the families of Oakland PD fallen officers. If interested, the cost of a team is \$250 with five players. For information, call Jonas at 989-6348 or visit [www.srvff.org](http://www.srvff.org).

**FIFTH ANNUAL ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW** The fifth annual Antiques "Road Show" will be held from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Bay Area appraisers will donate their expertise and will be available to give verbal valuations for \$15 per item or three for \$40. Proceeds benefit the Blackhawk Museum Children's Education and Transportation Fund. Call 964-9999.

**FOOD DRIVE AT ZACHARY'S PIZZA** During the month of May, Zachary's Pizza will host a Food Drive to support local food banks. Participants can enter to win a free pizza. For details, visit [www.zacharys.com/support-food-banks](http://www.zacharys.com/support-food-banks).

**GAS CARD FUNDRAISER** Contra Costa for Every Generation (CCEG) is a nonprofit organization helping to make the county a good place to age. It is hosting a drawing to benefit the programs with a grand prize of \$5,000 in Chevron gas gift cards. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call 746-7169.

**HATS OFF AMERICA RUN AND WALK** The 15th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run and Walk will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, June 6, at Sycamore Valley Park,

2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Cost is \$35; no entry fee for volunteers. All runners and volunteers receive T-shirts and lunch. Proceeds benefit families of soldiers. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**VANITY FOR CHARITY IV** Dr.

Jerome Potozkin, a Danville and Walnut Creek dermatologist, will host Vanity for Charity IV from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, May 28, at his Walnut Creek office, 110 Tampico, Suite 200. All proceeds from Botox, Restylane and Juvederm injections will benefit STAND! Against Domestic Violence. For an appointment, call 272-0278.

## Garden/ Home Tours

**MEMORIES IN THE GARDEN** The sixth annual garden tour will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, June 6, in unique and luxurious gardens in Diablo, Danville and San Ramon. Tickets are \$25 before May 31; \$30 afterward. Proceeds benefit Valley Oak Respite Center. Tickets are available at East Bay Flower Company in the Livery. Call 956-9269.

## Kids and Teens

**FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT**

Blackhawk Plaza hosts free entertainment for children from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, in the rotunda or near the playground. See Jeremy the Juggler on May 23, and balloon twisting and clowning around May 30. Visit [www.shopblackhawkplaza.com](http://www.shopblackhawkplaza.com).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**HEALING POWER OF ENERGY**

**PSYCHOLOGY** This hands-on-workshop will include demonstrations, practice and opportunities to experience Emotional Freedom Techniques from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 23, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients and their support. Call 933-0107.

**LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

Richard J. Blume will speak on

long term care insurance from 7-8 p.m., Thursday, May 28, at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Learn why you should get it, when you should get it, and how much insurance is enough. This event is free. Call 973-2850.

## Live Music

**SOLO ACOUSTIC GUITAR WITH**

**GLENN STALLER** Enjoy an evening of solo acoustic guitar with Glenn Staller at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 29, at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. This event is free. Call 973-3388.

## Miscellaneous

**EAGLE SCOUT BLOOD DRIVE** Local Boy Scout Adam Hillyer is coordinating a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross for his Eagle Scout Project. It will be from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville. To sign up, visit [www.danvilleblooddrive.org](http://www.danvilleblooddrive.org).

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED** Education Culture International is bringing French and Spanish students to Danville from July 7-19 and host families are needed. The students attend daily planned activities, speak English, are fully insured and bring their own spending money. Call 552-8017.

## On Stage

**BELLY DANCER OF THE YEAR** Belly Dancer of the Year Pageant presented by East Bay Dance Company will be held at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, May 23, at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$14 for general admission; \$9 for seniors and youth. Call 937-7852.

**CAPTAIN COOL AND THE NINJA**

**BUNNIES** The heroes of Earth, Captain Cool and The Righteous Dudes must protect the planet from the Ninja Bunnies. See it at 7 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 1 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 22-24, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for children. Call 314-3400.

## Political Notes

**OPEN HOUSE HOSTED BY SEN.**

**MARK DESAULNIER** State Sen.

Mark DeSaulnier will host an Open House from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, May 28, at his Senate District office, 1350 Treat Blvd., #240, Walnut Creek. Learn about the legislative process and services available to you. Refreshments will be served. Call 942-6082.

**SAN RAMON VALLEY REPUBLICAN**

**WOMEN** This group will host guest speaker Charles E. Self, Ph.D. aka "Dr. History" at its luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$23. Call 314-9129.

## Seniors

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

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

**DANVILLE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**

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

**HICAP APPOINTMENTS** The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

**PRIME TIME** Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$4 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call Ruth Ann at 820-6387.

**SAN RAMON LIVEWELL RESOURCE**

**FAIR** A wealth of resources for "Boomers," seniors and their families will be available at a fair from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 30, at the Senior and Community Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. This event is free. Call 973-3253.

**SENIOR SNEAKER TRIPS** Town of Danville hosts Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**SENIORS PROGRAM** Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall Lounge hosts a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board games, visiting with

friends and meeting new people. Call 314-3400.

**ST. ISIDORE'S 'YOUNG AT HEART'**

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

**VALLEY OAK RESPITE CENTER**

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

## Spiritual

**BEST HITS OF THE BIBLE** Discover a simple way to approach, understand, and appreciate scripture at St. Timothy's every Sunday morning, at 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. Visit [www.sainttimothysdanville.org](http://www.sainttimothysdanville.org).

**BUILDING FRANCISCAN ECOLOGICAL**

**CONSCIOUSNESS** This retreat will offer a variety of ways to enter more deeply into the right relationship with nature and will be held May 29-31, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$210 for a private room; \$180 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

## Sports

**ADULT OPEN GYM BASKETBALL**

Town of Danville holds drop-in basketball year-round at the Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road, for ages 18 and over. Drop-in times are 7:30-9 a.m., Saturdays. Bring your own ball. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3400.

**DANVILLE TENNIS CLUB** The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9-11 a.m., Saturdays for drop-in tennis at San Ramon Valley High School. This free co-ed club provides play for 4.0 to 5.0 and very strong 3.5 level players. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/danvilletennisclub>.

**LEARN TENNIS, GET FREE RACQUET**

Learn to play tennis in six hours and receive a free Dunlop Tennis Racquet. Sponsored by the United States Tennis Association, new classes start the first Monday of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at San Ramon Valley High School. The cost of six hours of group lessons is \$100 per player. Lessons taught by former world ranked tennis professional/30-year coach. To register, call Brett, USPTA P-1 at 683-2460.

**SAN RAMON VALLEY TENNIS CLUB**

This women's league is year round for both A and B players meeting for practice weekday mornings. Membership is \$30 annually. For

information, call Patty at 820-8131 or Tilma at 736-3626 or visit <http://srvtc.blogspot.com>.

**WALNUT CREEK TENNIS CLUB**

WCTC is a free, co-ed tennis group for single adults of all ages and levels (primarily 2.5-3.5). It plays drop-in tennis from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays and Sundays at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek. See information at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/wctc/>.

## Support Groups

**AMERICAN CHRONIC PAIN**

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

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

**HEART SUPPORT GROUP** This group provides support for people with heart disease who have undergone a heart procedure and their families and caregivers and meets from 1:30-3 p.m., on the fourth Saturday of every month, at Kaiser Hospital Medical Office Building, 3rd Floor, Walnut Creek. Hear and learn from healthcare professionals speak on a variety of heart-related topics. Call 708-4151 or visit [www.mendedhearts254.org](http://www.mendedhearts254.org).

**HOSPICE OF THE EAST BAY SUPPORT**

**GROUPS** Hospice of the East Bay hosts numerous support groups including Adults Who Have Lost a Parent from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, June 18-Aug. 6; and Widow and Widower's Support Group from 6-8 p.m., Thursdays, May 28-July 16; all at the Pleasant Hill location, 3470 Buskirk Ave. All groups and classes require pre-registration; call 887-5681.

## Volunteering

**MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON**

**VALLEY** The Museum of the San Ramon Valley welcomes volunteers and has a current need for greeters who give three hours one day a month to welcome visitors to the museum, register their attendance, and give them an introductory tour of the Waiting Room and the Museum Store. Call Carmen Curtis at 837-9781 or the museum at 837-3750.

**SAN RAMON VALLEY EDUCATION**

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

**SHERIFF SEEKS SENIOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Sheriff's Valley Station Office in Alamo is seeking people interested in assisting law enforcement in the community. Citizens should have a clean criminal history and would be responsible for one shift a week for four-and-a-half hours. Interested applicants should call James Hogan or Elmer Glasser at 837-2902.



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## Parent photographers

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



KARIN PIDEL

## Diving into first place

San Ramon Valley High School sophomore Katja Pidel executes a front one and a half somersault pike dive to place first in the North Coast Section diving championships with a score of 404.95 on Thursday, May 14, at the Concord Community Pool. Pidel also won every duel meet of the season and East Bay Athletic League on May 3.

Top three winners at the championship were (l-r) Kim Lisiak (senior, Carondelet), Katja Pidel (sophomore, SRVHS) and Katie Thralls (senior, Granada).

## ROUNDUPS

### MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

#### Men's Lacrosse

The Mustang men's lacrosse team is nearing the end of another successful campaign. They are riding a six-game winning streak into the semifinals of the NCS playoffs and look for it to continue against Amador Valley. Led by the consistent play of senior goalie Trevor Moriarty, the Mustangs have not given up double digit goals since the win streak began. Junior attackman Ryan Lieber paces the offense, coming off a three assist performance against Foothill, while junior middle Cody Soberanes and senior middle Matt O'Brien take charge in the midfield. O'Brien recently had a four goal performance against rival San Ramon, including the game winner with eight seconds left. If the Mustangs go on to defeat the Amador Valley Dons for a third time, they will then get to play De La Salle in a grudge match or Berkeley for the first time this season.

#### Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team at Monte Vista is coming close to icing the cake. They have already won the regular season East Bay Athletic League title after going undefeated in league play. Their consistency earned them the No. 1 seed for North Coast Section playoffs as well as a first round bye. In the second round they played Redwood and prevailed 13-9 with some help from senior Aimee Dewan. They look to push forward and win their next two games, which would give them their first NCS championship in school history.

#### Baseball

After losing a heartbreaker 2-1 to De La Salle, the Monte Vista baseball team turned it up a notch. They posted three straight shutout wins against Amador Valley, San Ramon and Berkeley. The pitching of seniors Christian Jones and Mark Appel has been stellar, especially in the second half of the season. The team's offensive output is also increasing with each game which bodes well for them heading into the NCS tournament. The boys earned a No. 2 seed, behind only De La Salle, and also got a first round bye. They play the winner of the Irvington and Deer Valley game. If Monte Vista moves on they will have to deal with Freedom, and then possibly another rematch against rival De La Salle.

#### Softball

After coming off the high of beating San Ramon at home, the softball team at Monte Vista began to experience a low. They went on to close out the season on a seven game losing streak. They nearly got the chance to recreate the good vibes but ended up falling to San Ramon, 5-4, in the last game of the season. The good news is they are a relatively young team, and can build on the things they did right this year.

—Troy Dillingham



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

## Safe at third

San Ramon Valley High School third-base player Sara Pacioni tags Mustang Kaitlyn Mamizuka sliding into third, but is too late and Mamizuka is called safe, as the cross-town rivals face each other for the last softball game of the regular season at SRVHS. The Lady Wolves won, 5-4, and continue on to North Coast Section playoffs.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

## Going for the goal

Cody Soberanes, No. 26, scores for Monte Vista High in the North Coast Section playoffs at Monte Vista last Saturday. The Mustangs beat Foothill High, 10-6, and were next to face Amador Valley on Wednesday. The Lady Mustangs also won their game Friday and were facing Amador on Wednesday.

## PREP SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 23

#### Softball

- NCS 2nd Round of Games

#### Track and Field

- NCS Tri-Valley at Granada

Wednesday, May 27

#### Softball

- NCS Semifinals

Friday-Saturday,  
May 30-June 1

#### Track and Field

- NCS Meet of Champions at UC Berkeley

Saturday, May 30

#### Softball

- NCS Championship

June 5-6

#### Track and Field

- CA State meet at Buchanan High in Fresno

June 13

#### Track and Field

- Golden West Invitational at Folsom High

# In remembrance

*Oak Hill Park ceremony will honor veterans—from the Revolutionary War onward*

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Take a moment to remember those who gave their all in service to their country. This is the sentiment behind the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Hill Park in Danville, a cooperative effort by the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley, the Town of Danville and the All Wars Memorial Foundation.

“Overall this is a wonderful opportunity for all the families in the San Ramon Valley to honor all the veterans—not only the soldiers who gave their lives—and the families and friends of those who have served,” said David Behring, vice president of the All Wars Memorial Foundation.

American flags will lead the way to Oak Hill Park at 3005 Stone Valley Road in Danville, next to Monte Vista High School, on Monday morning. The event, which usually draws about 1,000 people, begins at 11 a.m. but folks are asked to arrive earlier.

“We will have the main part of the ceremony on the lawn right next to the lake,” said Foundation president Bill Picton. “We will have the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Sheriff’s bagpipers and a presentation of colors.”

Picton himself will go to the All Wars Memorial at 8 a.m. to lower the flag to half staff.

Special guest Abraham Lincoln will deliver the Gettysburg Address. After the formal ceremony, Honest Abe will gather children around him to tell some stories in the first person.

This will be the second appearance at the ceremony for the renowned impersonator.

“Everything is in first person; you really feel as though you’re talking to President Lincoln,” said Behring. “It’s an exciting way for children to learn about history.”

The keynote speaker will be retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James Michael Myatt, a native of San Francisco. During his U.S. Marine Corps career, Gen. Myatt served in command positions in all three active Marine divisions.

He was promoted to brigadier general in 1988 at the age of 46, the youngest man in the history of the Corps to be promoted to the rank of general. During the four-day ground war of Operation Desert Storm in February 1991, his division defeated seven Iraqi Army divisions, seized Kuwait International Airport and liberated Kuwait City.

During the ceremony, two F-16s from the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno will do a flyover. There also will be a tribute to Lt. Jim Swett, a Marine fighter pilot, and one of the four Medal of Honor winners who spoke at the major fundraising event when the All Wars Memorial was in its planning stages.

“We will have a procession over to the Memorial where we will have David Behring recite Jim Swett’s Medal of Honor citation,” said Picton, “and we will have some Gold Star Families present.”

The All Wars Memorial was dedicated four years ago at the 2005 Memorial Day event. It has five Liberty Panels that depict historically significant events from the Revolutionary War up until today. The Freedom Wall has quotes engraved in granite about every generation continuing the constant struggle for freedom.



The U.S. Marine Corps presents colors at the 2008 Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Hill Park in Danville, a cooperative effort by the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley, the Town of Danville and the All Wars Memorial Foundation.

“We are putting a new patina finish on the five bronze plaques that depict certain periods of military history, and the eight-foot sculpture,” Behring said. “We encourage people to look at the pavers and bronze plaques. . . . I enjoy watching people. You might see three generations together.”

Many families bring picnic lunches to share the patriotic event and then enjoy the park setting.

“Normally the weather is beautiful on Memorial Day,” Behring noted.

The ceremony will also feature the haunting melody of “Taps,” played by Laurie McGaw, who was first trumpet for the San Francisco Symphony and also played in the Marine Corps Band. The melody will be echoed by trumpet player Bill Picton.

“We’ll close with the bagpipes playing ‘Amazing Grace’ plus raising the flag back up from half mast,” said Picton. ■



ALL WARS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

## Engraved memories

Each engraved granite stepping stone at the All Wars Memorial preserves a cherished memory of a loved one. There are a total of 1,100 pavers and 250 remain to be sold.

The pavers can honor a friend, family member, or an organization such as the USO, a division that fought or nurses that served in World War II or Vietnam. If the person died in action or as a result of wounds received, the paver reads “In memory”; otherwise they are engraved to read “In honor.”

At the Memorial Day program a table will be set up to sell the pavers, which measure 8 inches by 8 inches and cost \$250. The pavers are numbered and a list will be at the table to help people locate the one they want to see.

Money raised by sale of the pavers goes to the All Wars Memorial Foundation to maintain the Memorial.

Army Sgt. Victor Thibeault, who was wounded in Afghanistan in December 2003, looks at the engraved pavers at the All Wars Memorial.

# EPICURE



By JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## Slow cookin' for spring meals

The simplicity of one-pot cooking appeals to us all. And, in our crazed, time-starved lives, the image of a ready-to-eat dinner awaiting us at the end of the long day is even more appealing. With these advantages, it's a wonder we don't slow-cook more often.

Like many of us, you've probably got one of those slow cookers (aka crock pots) stored somewhere in your kitchen or garage. The million-dollar question is: When did you last use yours?

Like other culinary trends, the popularity of slow cookers has gone up and down since their introduction in the 1950s. Then called crock pots, they were easy to use but hard to clean. In the 1970s, newer versions offered a removable ceramic liner, simplifying the cleaning process. These days, slow cookers are popular again and come with various features including multiple heat settings, timers, built-in thermometers—and high-end models are even computerized.

Yet even the simplest slow cooker can produce tasty, economical meals—stews, soups, beans, casseroles, lasagna, desserts—with minimal effort. For best results with slow cookers, keep one key step in mind: Season and brown meats, sauté aromatic ingredients and parboil beans before adding to the slow cooker. Doing so will bring out the unique flavor of those ingredients in a way the slow-cook process will not.

By habit more than reason, we generally reserve stews and soup for the winter season but don't let that attitude get in your way. A slow-cooked stew can showcase the best of spring's vegetables and turn inexpensive cuts of meat into succulent pieces, yielding a delicious, tummy-warming meal for a cool springtime evening. So, pull out that slow cooker, dust it off and try one of these satisfying recipes. Slow and easy does it every time.

*Jacqui Love Marshall lives in San Ramon with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at [jlovemarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:jlovemarshall@yahoo.com).*

## Philanthropic graduates

As senior class president for the Rolling Hills Chapter of National Charity League Inc., Sunny Lekov recognized her graduating class for their five years of service to the community at the annual Senior Presents ceremony held March 29 at Diablo Country Club.

"Five years ago, 20 girls were brought together by their mothers because they shared one thing in common; they all had a desire to volunteer their time to help those in need," stated Sunny.

Devon Ryan of Danville received the Senior Service Award, given annually to the graduating senior with the highest number of cumulative philanthropy hours.

"NCL has made me realize that there are people out there not as fortunate as me who need some extra help," said Ryan. "Working with NCL has shown me how important helping others is, and has inspired me to continue to be involved with community service throughout my college years, and hopefully for the rest of my life."

Graduating members are Alexa Carbajal, Gabrielle Carey, Summer Dashe, Katharine Edson, Alexandra Hay, Ariel Henley, Alixandria Henley, Alexandra Lekov, Madisyn Maloney, Jessica Murad, Erica Nelson, Lauren Raponi, Elyse Rigolfi, Jacqueline Rush, Devon Ryan, Ashley Scott, Alexandra Sheperdson, Melanie Smith, Farrell Thomas, and Amanda Wolf.



Devon Ryan, Senior Service Award recipient, works at a playground for physically challenged children.

## Recipe

### Slow Cooker Cioppino

(serves 8)

- 2 large onions, chopped (2 cups)
  - 2 medium stalks celery, finely chopped (about 1 cup)
  - 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped (about 2-1/2 tsp)
  - 1 can (28 oz) diced tomatoes, undrained
  - 1 bottle (8 oz) clam juice
  - 1 can (6 oz) tomato paste
  - 1/2 cup dry white wine or water
  - 1 Tbsp red wine vinegar
  - 1 Tbsp olive or vegetable oil
  - 2 1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
  - 1/4 tsp sugar
  - 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
  - 1 dried bay leaf
  - 1 lb firm-textured white fish, cut into 1-inch pieces
  - 3/4 lb uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
  - 1 can (6 1/2 oz) chopped clams with juice, undrained
  - 1 can (6 oz) crabmeat, drained
  - 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
1. In a 5-6 qt slow cooker, mix all ingredients except fish, shrimp, clams, crabmeat and parsley. Cover and cook on high heat setting for 3-4 hours.
  2. Stir in fish, shrimp, clams and crabmeat. Reduce heat setting to low. Cover and cook 30-45 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with fork. Remove bay leaf. Stir in parsley.

See recipes for Spring Lamb Stew with Mashed Potatoes, Barbecue Pulled Chicken and Slow Cooker Turkish Lamb & Vegetable Stew online at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

Search a complete Restaurant Listing on [DanvilleWeekly.com](http://DanvilleWeekly.com)

# Forks Corks & More

## AMERICAN

### Bridges Restaurant & Bar

44 Church Street, Danville, (925) 820-7200. Bridges in downtown Danville is the ideal venue for lunch or dinner. Enjoy cozy, alfresco dining on our vine-covered patio, or experience the warm ambience of our main dining room. The sleek, contemporary bar/lounge area is ideal for meeting friends after work, offering a delicious "small bites" menu and specialty cocktails. Executive chef Kevin Gin creates an inspired seasonal menu featuring California cuisine with European and Asian influences. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Dinner nightly. Complimentary valet parking. [www.bridgesdanville.com](http://www.bridgesdanville.com)

## PIZZA

### Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

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

## WINE - RETAIL/TASTING

### Bella Vino

3450 Camino Tassajara, Danville, 94506, 925-648-1300. Taste a variety of wines at leisure or grab a bottle to go! Tasting Tuesday - Sunday. Special tasting events every Thursday and Live Jazz on Fridays.  
5/22 - Live Music with Sue Lukito 7:30-9:30 p.m. - New Music  
5/28 - Big Blind Tasting  
6/05 - Live Music - The Black Pearl Project Duo 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
6/19 - Live Music - Chris Ahlman 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
6/26 - Come and Jazz out with Sue Lukito & Guido Fazio on Sax!  
Check us out online on our events page for current upcoming events at [www.bvino.com](http://www.bvino.com)

### The Vine at Bridges

480 Hartz Avenue, Downtown Danville. 820-7210. Wine shop open Tues-Sat from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays 4-9 p.m. Sunday 1-6 p.m. Wine Bar open Tuesday through Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. 30 wines are available to taste at the wine bar and 260 different wines are available for purchase in the wine shop.  
5/23 - In Store Educational Tasting 1-4 p.m.  
5/30 - In Store Educational Tasting 1-4 p.m.  
6/02 - Wine Club Pick Up Party 5-6 p.m.  
6/06 - In Store Educational Tasting 1-4 p.m.  
For more information about events please visit [www.thevineatbridges.com](http://www.thevineatbridges.com)



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# PRESENTING THE PAST

BY FRIEDERICHE HUMBURG

## An Historical Sketch of San Ramon Valley, Part I

*Editor's Note: Miss Humburg wrote this history, based on research and conversations with her aunt Flora May Stone Jones, for "The Valley Kernel" which was the first San Ramon Valley Union high school annual in 1914.*

*"And what is so rare as a day in June?  
Then, if ever, come perfect days;  
Then Heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays."*

It was on such a perfect day in June 1847, that a canvas covered wagon drawn by oxen, slowly wound its way through a beautiful valley. This "prairie schooner" carried a little family of home seekers, and as the oxen moved laboriously along, the scene which greeted the eye at every turn of the winding path, called forth exclamations of admiration from the occupants of the wagon.

At length the travelers halted the oxen, that they might better gaze and admire the picture of beauty and serenity, that was spread before them. On every side, the valley and surrounding hills were covered with thick, velvety clover, and wild oats standing waist high, and waving and rippling in the summer breeze, like the bosom of a lake. The western hills were clumped with oaks, maples and shrubs, willows and mottled trunked sycamores fringed the little stream at their left; while the mountain, which formed the eastern wall of the valley, seemed ever at their side as they journeyed southward.

Cattle grazing on the luxuriant grasses, the chirp and twitter of birds, and the drowsy hum of insects, completed a picture of beauty, peace, and contentment. Save for the bridle path which was the only guide of our travelers, and for a tule thatched hut near the stream, (used as a rude shelter by Spanish vaqueros when night overtook them in this region) there was nothing to show the hand of man.

This was San Ramon Valley as it looked when first viewed by Americans, when they stopped their ox team on that June day so long ago, just north of the spot where the village of Alamo now stands. No wonder that the head of that little family bared his brow, as he stood amid the wild oats, and exclaimed half in prophecy, half in determination, "Some time we will have a home in this valley." This was before the discovery of gold in California, and this little family were home seekers, not gold hunters. But because of the Mexican war which was raging at that time, they sought a settlement for protection, and Pueblo (now San Jose) was their destination.

Four years later, the year 1851 found our home makers back in the San Ramon Valley, accompanied by another family. These two families with two others who joined them later, purchased four leagues of land in the Romero Grant, paying for it four thousand dollars.

Is not our pride in our valley justifiable, when one considers that these people who had journeyed by wagon and ox team over half a continent, and who had the whole state of California to choose from, chose for their home the heart of the San Ramon?

Some changes marked the valley during the four years that had passed, notably the building of adobe houses, which were the homes of Spanish families.



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Friederiche Humburg wrote a Historical Sketch of the San Ramon Valley for her high school yearbook.

Viewed through the lapse of years, we associate the adobe with the romantic and the picturesque. Built of adobe bricks, dried in the sun, their thick walls and deeply framed doorways and windows afforded warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Every adobe house was surrounded by a "portico" about whose rude pillars clambered vines of the mission grape, and in every door yard bloomed the fragrant Castilian rose of old Spain.

The adobes call to mind tales of the gay, care free life of the Spanish days in California. We think of the fandango, the soft music of the guitar, and the horsemen with their wide sombreros, their bright colored serapes, their jingling spurs, and their horses no less gaily bedecked in silver mounted bridles, and saddles with monstrous "tapaderas."

But one may ask why, in our valley today, we find no descendants of these gay, pleasure loving people. That question may be answered in two words, the "manana" of the ease loving Spaniard, and the "today" of the hustling, progressive American.

Farms were improved with houses, barns and granaries, a few fruit trees were set out, and gardens planted. The fertile land, little of which had ever known a plow share, under American thrift was cultivated and made to produce abundantly.

In the midst of this prosperity, a heavy blow fell upon the residents. The Spanish grants under which title the people had bought their land, became the cause of years of litigation, and many residents were forced to pay for their land a second time.

*Provided by Beverly Lane, 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."*

## OF NOTE

### Darren Sandosky achieves Eagle Scout

Darren Brooks Sandosky, 17, of Danville became an Eagle Scout in a court of honor last month. His project was to construct two mobile storage carts for the steel drum program at Dougherty Valley High School, where he is a student. Prior to the project the drums were stored on the floor on the drum room and each had to be carried individually. Sandosky is a member of Troop No. 60 under Scoutmaster Mike Dubrall. He is the son of Dave and Michelle Sandosky.



WENTLING'S STUDIO

### Education Foundation welcomes board members

The San Ramon Valley Education Foundation (SRVEF) recently announced the appointment of new board members Adam Cipriano and Nicole Holthuis to the Foundation Board. Cipriano has been actively engaged in the San Ramon Valley school district for the past five years and is the current president and a past treasurer and past director for the Bolinger Canyon Elementary School Education Fund. He is also currently a part of the Citizens for Quality Schools/Measure C leadership team.

Holthuis has spent most of her professional life in education as a teacher, curriculum developer, teacher educator, classroom researcher and program evaluator. She currently volunteers in her daughters' classrooms, is a member of the Green Valley Elementary Site Council, and part-time consultant. She and her husband have lived in Danville for 13 years and have three girls, ages 8, 10 and 12.

The Foundation conducts fundraisers (such as the Primo's Run for Education) throughout the year, and then returns the proceeds directly to the schools and classrooms.



Iron Horse Middle School teachers that were the biggest losers (of weight) in the district are (l-r) Maureen Alison, vice principal; Lynette Gonzales, eighth grade core teacher; Scott Matek, PE teacher; Cathy Carle, the biggest loser and counselor; Judy Herrera, eighth grade core teacher; and Chris George, vice principal.

### Schools' loss is a good thing

Middle schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District decided about three months ago to hold a "Biggest Loser" competition with the idea that it would help keep morale up for the teachers during the tough times ahead. The competition was a hit and 140 middle school teachers in the district set out to see who could lose the most weight. Each school had an initial weigh-in day to come up with a school weight, then they had a weekly weigh-in to track everyone's progress and after 10 weeks had a final weigh-in.

Los Cerros and Iron Horse middle schools tied for the biggest percentage of weight loss for the first-place prize, which was a healthy catered lunch sponsored by the PTA. On top of the lunch, the winning schools had the opportunity to win a one-year membership to 24 hour Fitness, donated by Iron Horse parent Elizabeth Gentry, a 24 hour executive.

Lynette Gonzales, an eighth-grade core teacher at Iron Horse, lost the most weight and won the membership. As a group the teachers lost more than 850 pounds with some people losing up to 30.

'...He knows how to make his case with carefully reasoned storytelling and plaintive questions...'

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TownSquare Forum

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Alamo

**Total sales reported:** 1  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$1,015,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,015,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,015,000

### Danville

**Total sales reported:** 6  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$620,000

**Highest sale reported:** \$1,210,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$838,333

### Walnut Creek

**Total sales reported:** 16  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$206,500  
**Highest sale reported:** \$880,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$545,187

Source: California REsource

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2009

### Alamo

**113 Bunce Meadows Drive** B. & L. Cunningham to C. & K. Kiltz for \$1,015,000

### Danville

**32 Liberta Court** E. & C. Brown to L. & D. Okamoto for \$825,000

**700 Liquidamber Place** E. & L. Bleth to J. & K. Robinson for \$1,210,000

**314 Squirrel Ridge Way** C. & K. Grove to J. & K. Willms for \$630,000

**48 Summer Hill Court** Eastman-Stout Trust to J. Maufe for \$620,000

**300 Sunset Drive** Barclay Trust to S. & L. Heninger for \$925,000

**319 Windchime Drive** National Residential to M. Smith for \$820,000

### Walnut Creek

**1661 Alvarado Avenue** Bank of America to K. Leung for \$524,000

**1897 Appia Court** C. Teale to L. & C. Bohn for \$491,000

**3196 Arbolado Drive** J. & B. Garman to D. Bennett for \$839,000

**1117 Corrie Lane** J. Galoyan to Cornwall Trust for \$327,500

**1020 Gregg Way** A. Hale to J. Deleuze for \$880,000

**160 Hillcroft Way** F. Farid to C. & R. Nelson for \$740,000

**3623 Mahogany Court** Katz Trust to C. & K. Rector for \$725,000

**320 North Civic Drive #317** Feyselman Trust to D. Diskin for \$206,500

**572 Pimlico Court** R. Bruch to D. & J. Park for \$380,000

**1830 Pomar Way** Nomura Home Equity Loan to S. Rees for \$255,000

**3108 Rossmoor Parkway #6** Hueter Trust to Fuller Trust for \$740,000

**2844 Saklan Indian Drive** Kisselburgh Trust to Liu Trust for \$730,000

**655 St. Ives Court** Evenskaas Trust to J. & K. Sokoloff for \$525,000

**2081 Stewart Avenue** D. Barca to S. & L. Eppinger for \$575,000

**900 Terra California Drive #5** Adams Trust to Blann-Parrish Trust for \$280,000

**570 Walnut Avenue** Gurevich Trust to G. & H. Neacsu for \$505,000

Source: California REsource

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### Danville

4 BEDROOMS

**241 Aptos Place \$979,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410

### Livermore

3 BEDROOMS

**2658 Wellingham Drive \$459,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ruby Hill 417-2250

### Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

**3207 Pueblo Way \$379,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

**4852 Drywood Street \$699,950**  
 Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

4 BEDROOMS

**2263 Doccia Court \$1,350,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ruby Hill 417-2250

**3314 Arbor Drive \$437-5830**  
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

**3568 Vine Street \$895,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 719-0160

**735 Saint John Circle \$939,000**  
 Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

**1109 Navalle Court \$986,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3818

**Danville Weekly**  
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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Blog  
<http://thecombsteam.blogspot.com>



## New on the Market in Walnut Creek 50 Sun Valley Drive



Newly constructed in 2006, 4 BR/2 BA home on .36 acres. 2411 sq. ft. Located on quiet street close to shopping & schools. Easy freeway access. [www.50sunvalley.com](http://www.50sunvalley.com)  
**Offered at \$750,000**

### Danville

240 Alicante Place

Lovely court location on 1/3 acre premium lot, this 3 BR/2 1/2 BA home has been completely updated throughout. 3 car garage. View this listing at [www.240Alicantep.com](http://www.240Alicantep.com)  
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Pleasanton, 2744 Sanderling Way, Sat,  
May 23, 9am-3pm

**Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave,  
May 23 8-4**  
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Sound  
Alert types:Vibration; Downloadable  
polyphonic, MP3 ringtones  
Speakerphone Yes  
- 3.5 mm headset jack

Memory  
Phonebook:Practically unlimited  
entries and fields, Photocall  
Call records:100 received, dialed  
and missed calls  
Internal :8 GB/ 16 GB  
Card slot :No  
Data: GPRS Yes  
HSCSD: No  
EDGE: Yes  
3G: HSDPA  
WLAN: Wi-Fi 802.11b/g  
Bluetooth: Yes, v2.0, headset sup-  
port only  
Infrared port: No  
USB: Yes, v2.0

Camera  
Primary:2 MP, 1600x1200 pixels  
Video:No  
Secondary:No

Features  
OS :Mac OS X v10.4.10  
CPU:32-bit Samsung S5L8900 620  
MHz processor  
Messaging:SMS (threaded view),  
Email

Browser:HTML (Safari)  
Radio:No  
Games:Downloadable  
Colors:Black(8/16 GB), White (16 GB)  
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Java :No  
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