

Danville Weekly

Flowers with a flair: Danville florist shares her design magic on 'View from the Bay' PAGE 14

Ace will be the place: National hardware store coming to Yardbirds site in Alamo PAGE 5

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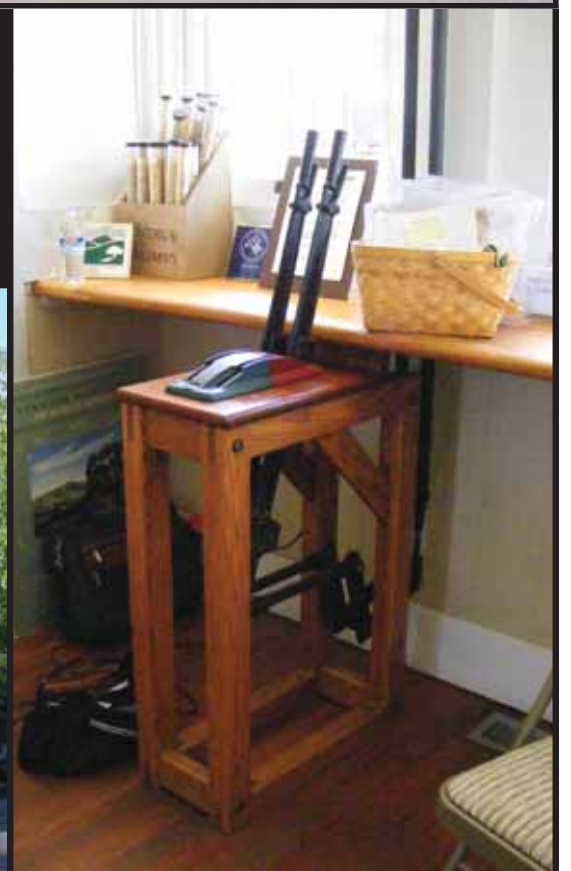
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ALL ABOARD FOR HISTORY

Museum of the San Ramon Valley celebrating 10 years in historic train depot

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Streetwise

ASKED OF THIRD-GRADERS FROM GREENBROOK ELEMENTARY AT THE TASSAJARA ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

What's the best thing about attending a one-room schoolhouse in 1888?



I think the best thing was doing the relay races. I loved how we got to skip, because I love skipping, and side shuffle during the race. I also liked the old songs.

Carson Meringer

I liked doing ciphering, which is what they called arithmetic in 1888. When you make a mistake there was no eraser. I liked division and multiplication the best.

Henrik Lang



I loved writing with quill and ink. What fascinates me is that I read Harry Potter, and they used quills and ink, and I thought, "How cool. I wish I could do this." Then when I found out we got to do it here at the schoolhouse I was so excited. It was messy, which I'm not used to, and a big challenge.

Anna Spain

Getting in trouble for riding my horse to school and forgetting to tie it up (even though there really wasn't a horse). My punishment was putting my nose into a small chalk circle on the blackboard and holding it there until Master Wharton let me sit down. At least he didn't hit me with the hickory stick, which was a little scary.

Bailey Mees



I like to sing, so I liked all the old songs that we sang. I especially like "Yankee Doodle," because I heard it before and it was familiar, so I didn't have any trouble. I also liked writing with quill pens in cursive the way they used to in 1888.

Meghan Helle

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is celebrating its 10th anniversary in the old train depot in Danville. Inside the former ticket room are controls for the flashing lights and paddles, colored black and red, to tell the trains to stop. The Southern Pacific caboose was purchased to house a restroom for patrons of the museum and the Iron Horse Trail. Photos by Dolores Fox Ciardelli.

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

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TAKE US ALONG



Book club expands its horizons: The Danville Book Club hikes Half Dome in Yosemite in September with its favorite reading. Club members are Bev Losi, Jan Zeppegno, Mariane Randall, Sue O'Reilly, Lisa Durand and Sue Nittler.



Museum quality: Louise Houghton tours Peru and Machu Piccu with the Oakland Museum Art Guild, and she didn't forget her Weekly!



Family vacation: Jamie, Erin and Abby Leeds pose with love with the Danville Weekly on their vacation to Ixtapa, Mexico.

More Take Us Along on PAGE 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“As Einstein said, ‘Imagination is more important than knowledge.’”

Visual arts teacher **Barbara Farmer**, asking the school board not to cut arts funding. See story, PAGE 8.

NEWS DIGEST

Congress honors Sentinels of Freedom

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) introduced a resolution last week honoring the Tri-Valley based Sentinels of Freedom program, commending the organization for its work providing scholarships to veterans severely injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The program helps these veterans enroll in school, find and maintain a job, and obtain housing.

“I’m proud to honor Sentinels of Freedom,” said Rep. McNerney. “This group deserves strong commendation and recognition for their hard work on behalf of the brave men and women who have sacrificed greatly for our nation.”

Mayor’s Morning next week

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich will hold his monthly Mayor’s Morning at 7:30 a.m., Friday, June 5. This is a chance to share a light repast with the mayor and town officials, learn what is new in town, and to voice concerns.

The meeting will be held at Chow Restaurant, 445 Railroad Ave. Next month the event will be held in East Danville. Arnerich said he hopes these changes in venue will make the event more convenient for residents in different parts of Danville to attend. No reservations are necessary for the free gathering.

Race to eRace World Poverty

In an effort to give back to the world around them, the students of the San Ramon Valley High School leadership class will be holding a fundraising run, a Race to eRace World Poverty, Saturday May 30. This 5K race will begin at 8 a.m. with runners congregating on the football field and racing on the Iron Horse Trail. All proceeds will benefit the Millennium Promise, an organization closely associated with the United Nations and dedicated to eradicating extreme world poverty from third world nations.

By implementing the eight steps to end poverty laid out by the United Nations, the Millennium Promise hopes to erase extreme poverty around the world by 2015. The Millennium Promise is making a large impact on poverty-stricken nations by strategically enhancing medical, agricultural, educational and environmental techniques in a large village. Recently the implementation of these techniques in five villages in Tanzania helped more than 35,000 people.

To register as a runner, visit www.racetoerace.com.

Young pianists compete in the classics

Dianne Nicolini, host on 101.2 FM Classical Radio, will be the emcee for this year’s youthful piano extravaganza, Kids Play the Darndest Things. Chase Lim, 14, of Danville will be one of the pianists.

Musical highlights will be Beethoven’s Waldstein Sonata, Chopin’s Scherzo No. 4, Schubert’s Impromptu in b-flat plus Gershwin and more.

The young pianists who were chosen from auditions will compete in the finals at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Tickets for adults are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Youths through 18 are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. The pianists will be judged by professionals plus the audience will vote for their favorite performer. Former winners have gone on to perform at Carnegie Hall and the David Letterman Show.

The event is presented by the Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra Musical Director James Gardner.

Hospital helping cancer patients to look good

The American Cancer Society and San Ramon Regional Medical Center are sponsoring the Look Good...Feel Better program again this year. Cancer Treatments often cause changes in the condition of women’s skin and hair. A staff of cosmetologists will work with patients one-on-one to address the personal changes they are experiencing. There is no charge and participants will receive free products and advice.

Sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. with the next one taking place Monday, June 8, and two more Sept. 14 and Dec. 14. They will take place at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, West Day Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road in San Ramon. Reservations are required. Call the American Cancer Society at 227-2345.

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

School board approves reduced budget

By GEOFF GILLETTE

With the failure May 19 of the statewide ballot initiatives, officials with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District met in special session the next day to discuss the ramifications of the defeat and how the district will handle the expected loss of another \$6 million in revenues.

School board members were briefed on the situation by school superintendent Steve Enoch, who said that even with the May 5 approval of Measure C, the district remains in difficult financial circumstances.

"The revised budget from the governor is going to take another \$6.5 million away from us. We're operating with \$15 million less than we thought when this school year started," he explained.

Enoch laid out two possible courses of action for the dis-

Furlough days, concessions requested from teachers' union

trict, based on the most recent budget revisions from Sacramento. The first option, projected out over four years, shows cuts across the board. At the elementary level, class sizes would be held at 20:1 ratios for K-3 and ninth grade through this year, but would shift to 24:1 in subsequent years. Middle and high school classes would be increased to 30:1 ratios.

In addition, elementary teachers would lose one specialized preparation period. This affects art, science and physical education instructors as each school would be allowed to determine which of the three programs they would follow

and which would be cut.

Other reductions would come in the number of special education para-educators, grounds maintenance and custodial personnel. Items eliminated would include counselors, librarians, fifth-grade instrumental music, pool heating in January and February, and school crossing guards.

The second scenario is contingent on securing concessions from the various bargaining units representing employees of the district. In that scenario, many of the same cuts would occur, but would be pushed out by more than a year in order to preserve teacher's jobs.

If nothing changes in regards to funding levels, both scenarios would see the district losing money by the end of next year and completely exhausting its reserves by the end of the

See **BUDGET** on Page 8

Planners OK 'Field of Dreams'

Disputed sports field moves on to town council

By GEOFF GILLETTE

The two-year long battle over a sports practice field built on a ridge line ended Tuesday with little fanfare. No impassioned filibusters by neighbors, just a short discussion and a unanimous vote in favor by the Danville Planning Commission.

At their May 26 meeting, members of the Planning Commission were asked again to consider the request by David and Connie Lowe to move 273 cubic yards of soil. The earth was moved as part of grading for the sports field the Lowes built for their son and his Little League baseball team in August 2007. However, the work was done without the permission of the town.

The issue was initially denied by the commission due to a 14-foot fence, batting cages and lights for the field. Neighbors complained about the height of the fence, lights and potential drainage issues caused by retaining walls.

Earlier this year the plan was back before the Planning Commission with lowered fences and no lights. However, neighbors continued to express concerns about landscaping, irrigation, drainage and other issues. The commission directed the Lowe family to go through the Design Review Board before bringing it back.

At their Tuesday meeting, commissioners looked at a scaled down request which no longer mentioned batting cages or lights and presented a fence that would be five feet in height.

Mike Milani, President of the engineering firm Milani and Associates, addressed the commission.

"The last time we met there were a number of issues you asked us to address. We've addressed them," he said. He outlined their discussions

See **FIELD** on Page 6



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The vacant nursery will be the first section of the new Alamo Ace Hardware to open, probably in mid-June.

Ace will be the place in Alamo

National chain is coming to Yardbirds site

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Months after the doors closed on Yardbirds in Alamo, a new hardware chain will be taking up residence in the shuttered facility. Ace Hardware will be taking over the Yardbirds site on Danville Boulevard, and shoppers will be able to start coming back as soon as mid-June.

"Our family has decided to move ahead with the Ace organization," said Christopher Kretz, whose family is behind the new project. The Kretz family will act as owner/operators of the Ace store. Kretz said they had been in contact with other vendors and had done some research before deciding to go with Ace.

The current plan is for the 10,000-square-foot garden center to open around June 15.

The Kretzes are hoping to open the 27,000-square-foot main facility in August.

Kretz said they ended up choosing Ace for a few reasons.

"The community seemed to embrace that brand, and they've been ranked among the top six or seven national franchises over the last few years," he said.

He added that Ace's flexible stocking policy will

let them provide goods to customers that may not be part of the Ace brand.

"That's the beauty of Ace," he enthused. "You don't have to buy 100 percent of your product from them. You can mix and match."

That seems to be indicative of how Kretz feels the store will be run, aiming at what the community is going to want and trying to fill that niche in Alamo.

"We've retained three people from the Yardbirds' days. These three people who are helping us open up the store go back 10 to 15 years. Although it will be an Ace, we'll completely eliminate the feel of Home Depot," he explained. He added that besides the three hired to start the store back up, nearly half of the store's 40 employees will be made up of former Yardbirds personnel.

Kretz said he feels having that familiarity with the community, coupled with the ability to tailor their stock to the people who come into the store, will make the new venture a big hit.

"I think you're going to find we're a lot more in tune with the community than back in the Yardbirds days," Kretz said. ■

Amended tree ordinance passes

Coast redwoods chopped from protected list

By GEOFF GILLETTE

After weeks of back and forth on the issue of trees and whether or not coast redwoods should be a protected species, members of the Danville Planning Commission approved an updated tree ordinance leaving the disputed tree off the list.

Commission members Tuesday night engaged in an at-times contentious discussion over the amendment brought forth by planner David Crompton. At their May 12 meeting, members declined to simply remove the redwood from the protected species list as directed by the Town Council, but instead directed Crompton and town staff to revamp the ordinance to allow the commission the flexibility to rule on the more complex tree requests.

The ordinance Crompton brought out at the meeting this week called for additional verbiage that would have allowed the commission to approve a tree removal request for such issues as sunlight and a danger to the property from "litter and debris" falling from the tree.

The added paragraph would allow staff to make findings based on reasonable use, the issue that was the linchpin at the center of the tree removal appeal filed by Jill and Chris Beeman. The Beeman's requested the removal of a coast redwood on their property line due to the fact that it cut off sunlight to their property through the majority of the day.

Town staff was unable to make a finding based on sunlight, so the appeal was denied and went on to the Town Council who asked the commission to simply take the tree off the protected list.

Some commission members felt the added language provided too great a degree of flexibility. Commissioner Robert Storer said that

See **TREES** on Page 7



PHOTOS BY ELAINE BETTS

Hang gliding - sort of - was popular at the 20th annual San Ramon Art and Wind Festival.

Wind fest draws holiday crowds

Weather doesn't cooperate with hot air balloon launch

BY ELAINE BETTS

The hot air balloons could not be launched again this year at the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival held Sunday and Monday due to weather conditions but there were plenty of other fun activities.

Melissa Johnson of Danville has been coming for the past five years bringing her children, who are 2, 5 and 6 years old.

"We visit the stands and jump houses and watch the skateboarders," Johnson said, referencing the demonstrations by skateboard teams from The Shop in San Ramon. "It's friendly, and (there's) lots of food."

This year saw more activities for teenagers and rides for toddlers. Mitch McKay of Games2U provided video games which were a hit with children of all ages. With big screens on the outside of the truck, passers-by couldn't help but stop and watch as teenagers played Wii and others darted around playing laser tag.

The "hamster ball" also caught the attention of people who were intrigued by children of all ages diving and flipping in a clear plastic ball.

But as always the wind was the main attraction. Activities included making wind bonnets, wind wands and, of course, kites. National kite flying champions from all over the United States and Canada held demonstrations both days of the event and everyone was invited to go fly a kite. Hot air balloons were launched on the second day of the festival.

"The fun part is the candy drop," explained one of the kite-flyers.



This big clear plastic ball let children find their inner hamster, as they dove and flipped about.

"We send up a kite with a basket of candy and then drop the candy out. The kids love it!"

Diana Sharkey of Stubble Bubbles, located in Ahwahnee near Yosemite, has been a vendor from for the past 11 years.

"I do eight festivals in California and others on the East Coast and this is one of the best," said Sharkey. "This really is the best show for kids and is community based. There are not many like this."

Many took a break from the activities by visiting the arts and crafts booths and stopping at one of the 25 food and beverage stands.

The food stands are manned by local nonprofit organizations and all the profits go back into the community.

"Last year we raised \$75,000," said Nicole Blazin of the City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department, which coordinates the event.

Dennis Harvey and Don Jones from San Ramon Rotary Club were two of the longest standing Rotarians on the beer stand.

"I've been manning the stand since it started 20 years ago," Dennis said. "Don is a year behind me with 19 years." ■

Climate plan gets Danville approval

Questions continue about town's carbon footprint

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Danville will continue to go green as members of the Town Council approve a climate action plan designed to reduce the town's emissions. At their May 18 meeting, council members discussed the plan as presented by Town Attorney Rob Ewing.

"The state air resources board and the local air resources board have been identifying different ways that different sectors of the populace can help," he explained.

The impetus for seeking more green initiatives came when the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted a plan to implement the California Global Warming Solutions Act. That bill calls for municipalities to reduce their carbon emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

The act sets out areas where municipalities can concentrate their efforts. Ewing said Danville is already moving in those directions.

"A lot of the things that are set forth there as goals, as best practices, are things we've already started on. Having an overarching policy will be a good thing for the community and the town," he said.

Council members were supportive of the action plan, but questioned how the town will be able to establish a baseline of their carbon emissions in order to determine how they are doing in reducing them.

"One of the issues as a town is if we are going to reduce our greenhouse emissions by 15 percent - 15 percent of what?" said Councilman Mike Shimansky. "We don't have a bottom line that says our greenhouse gas emissions are X."

Ewing agreed, saying, "Clearly you can't hit a goal if you don't know where you're starting from." He added that they have been working on computer models of the town and working to determine what that baseline should be. He said that determining that number comes down to plugging

in basic information about the town's energy usage.

"You take the town's fleet of vehicles, you plug in what kind, what age, that sort of information. For buildings you put in the square footage, type of heating and cooling, all the utility bills," Ewing said.

Complicating the process is the I-680 corridor, which bisects the town. The thousands of vehicles traveling the corridor daily account for a considerable percentage of the carbon released into the atmosphere in Danville. Yet, the freeway is not technically part of the town's jurisdiction.

Ewing said the model they are working on should account for that. He added that all of the cities located along freeway corridors are faced with the same issue so he is expecting that there will be some method of accounting for it in the town's models.

Shimansky pointed to the ongoing design work for the new Veterans Hall as a way the town can show its commitment to being more green. The councilman said the town missed the boat when designing Oak Hill Park so he wants to make sure they incorporate green technologies into the renovated veterans structure.

Ewing said the climate action plan has a number of different programs possible. Some of those include replacing heating and air conditioning in town buildings with more energy efficient models.

"We're also looking at changing to more energy efficient street lights. And we're going to keep pushing for more bike and pedestrian trails and connections," he stated.

Council members gave their unanimous approval to the action plan although implementation could be delayed due to ongoing issues with revenues.

"I think the economy is going to have an impact and any decisions we make are going to have to look at costs," Ewing said. ■

FIELD

Continued from Page 5

with the Design Review Board and the recommendations they had made.

Commissioner Renee Morgan asked about the potential hazards of lead or lead runoff from the artificial turf on the field. Milani explained that the amount of lead in the product was minimal. He added that a person would have to ingest quantities of the turf material for the lead to be an issue.

In addressing drainage concerns, Milani said they had seen no significant change in drainage down the hill as a result of the retaining walls. The resolution calls for semi-annual inspections of the property.

The commission held its discussion on the matter, with the main issue revolving around inspection of the property. Commissioner Lynn Overcashier suggested that rather than have twice yearly inspections of the property, they inspect once a year during the rainy season.

Commissioner Robert Combs said he trusted in the advice of the staff, which recommended twice a year. Other commissioners agreed and Overcashier said she would be willing to do twice a year, but wanted specific wording on it.

"I don't want him (Lowe) getting accused if he doesn't do it right at every six months," she stated.

Commissioners unanimously approved the Lowe's request, with inspections being done twice a year. ■

Traffix program ready to roll

Buses expected to start transporting students in the fall

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A student transportation program designed to help reduce traffic congestion around several area schools is on track for a fall 2009 start, according to Danville transportation officials.

Transportation Services Director Tai Williams gave an update on the Traffix program at the May 18 meeting of the Town Council, and Williams said things are falling into place.

"We've made significant progress. From a planning standpoint it's pretty much wrapped up," she said.

Traffix is a traffic congestion program paid for in large part by Measure J tax funds. Over the last two years, officials have been working to put together the bus program as a means of putting fewer cars on the road.

Initially, seven schools will be participating:

- Los Cerros Middle School
- Green Valley Elementary
- Pine Valley Middle School
- Country Club Elementary
- Walt Disney Elementary
- Limited service will be provided to both Vista Grande and Neil Armstrong Elementary Schools.

Williams said during March they tweaked the routes and took buses out to make sure that drivers would be able to access all of the points along the routes with the large vehicles. It was also during that time that the decision was made to remove Tassajara Hills Elementary from the route and add the limited service area to Vista Grande and Neil Armstrong.

"Tassajara Hills is no longer on the list. Primarily because they can't tier the service between Tassajara Hills and Los Cerros, but also there was a split among parents at the school about accepting the service," Williams said. "There were also some physical challenges with the site as well."

During last week's open houses,

students and parents at the affected schools were given a demonstration of the buses and shown what the routes will be. Williams said the feedback was positive.

"Parents were wanting to know when they could start buying the passes and when the buses would be stopping," she explained.

Tickets are expected to go on sale during the summer, but Williams said they are delayed at the moment as they are waiting on the San Ramon Valley Unified School District to respond to a request to alter the bell schedules at the schools in order to allow the buses to have time to deliver the middle schoolers before heading back out to pick up the elementary school students.

"It's a chicken and the egg issue," Williams stated. "We can't set our schedules until we know what the bell schedules are going to be."

Williams said the most expensive part of the program is the bus and the driver, so being able to use the same vehicle and driver at both the middle and elementary locations would make the program more cost effective.

Once they know what the schedules are going to be, Williams said they will take some of the marketing funds from Traffix to get the word out about the bus program and promote sales of the bus passes. She added that she is hopeful that they will be able to have the school district utilize their LYRIS e-mail communication system to inform parents at the seven schools involved that the program is starting up and tickets are available.

Current plans call for the bus system to begin rolling Aug. 25. Passes will be sold through the summer for an introductory rate of \$200 per year. After Aug. 25, the fee will increase to \$250. Bus service previously provided by the School District cost \$400. ■



GEOFF GILLETTE

The Town Council has put in-lieu parking fees on hold for two years, which will allow restaurants to add outdoor seating without the added expense.

Town declares moratorium on parking in-lieu fees

Move designed to help spark business in downtown

By GEOFF GILLETTE

As part of their ongoing efforts to assist downtown merchants during the economic downturn, members of the Danville Town Council approved a resolution putting a hold on so called "parking in-lieu" fees. Such fees are assessed when a business owner does not have the required amount of parking spaces to service the expected level of clientele at their establishments.

At their May 5 meeting, council members discussed the issue, which has been something of a sticking point for restaurateurs in the downtown. The resolution, which was first introduced when the town released its economic stimulus package in March, would place a two-year moratorium on the fees.

This is expected to allow restaurant owners with the capacity for outdoor seating to utilize the space without being hit for the additional fees.

Mayor Newell Arnerich said he feels the resolution will ultimately help business owners get through

the difficult economic times. He added that this also provides assistance all throughout the town because having the businesses in the downtown provides sales taxes and jobs to residents.

Councilman Mike Shimansky questioned whether changing the parking in lieu fees would have any effect on projects currently under way. "Do we have anything in the mill right now that would be affected by this?" he asked.

Staff members said they did not believe any incoming projects would need to change in order to utilize the moratorium effectively.

Councilwoman Karen Stepper gave the resolution her support, saying she felt the town has the necessary infrastructure to support the additional traffic. "Our parking survey showed that we have adequate parking."

Council members gave their unanimous approval to the resolution. ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Coast redwoods, which line Gatetree Court, are no longer protected under the new Danville Tree Ordinance.

TREES

Continued from Page 5

allowing a finding to be made based on debris falling from a tree could allow any homeowner to take down a tree.

Commissioner Lynn Overcashier supported the new language, explaining that a tree at her mother's home in Crow Canyon drops berries all the time on the driveway, and she has slipped on them.

"I think it's good to have that flexibility," she said.

The commission debated whether or not it was necessary to have the conditional findings in there. Storer said he felt that since the term "reasonable use" was in the finding and was the heart of the issue, the specific examples were unnecessary.

Commissioner Tiffany Atwood pointed out that reasonable use was not a finding which worked for the Beemans.

"That's why we added that," she said.

Storer maintained that having reason-

able use as a finding on its own should be sufficient now that the issue has been brought under sharper focus by the discussion over the Beeman property.

Another bone of contention was whether or not to take the tree off the protected list. Storer initially was willing to allow the tree to be removed from the list, but asked that they come back to the ordinance in a year to see if there has been any abuse or problems caused by the amendment.

"We put a lot of time and effort into this document. I think we should come back and review it," he said.

He then cautioned his fellow commissioners to think in the long term about the ordinance and how it could be enforced by future commissioners, "In two years there could be seven different people here."

Overcashier objected to the idea of revisiting the issue in a year.

"I think it's a waste of time. To consider putting them back on there when we went to so much trouble to take them off seems

inappropriate," she said.

When it seemed the commission had come to consensus on the amended ordinance, Commissioner Storer took everyone by surprise when he moved the amended ordinance, but directed that the redwood stay on the protected list. It was quickly seconded by Commissioner Paul Radich.

After being questioned by Chairman Bob Nichols, Storer said, "I thought we were going to keep them on there and give ourselves more flexibility."

Overcashier shot back, "This whole discussion this evening and the previous two discussions was to take the redwoods off the list completely. It doesn't have to do with practicality or discretion it has to do with safety. I strongly disagree with the motion."

Commissioners voted 5-2 against Storer's motion. The issue was then moved by Commissioner Renee Morgan with the trees off the list. Despite his misgivings, Storer and Radich reluctantly supported the motion and it was passed unanimously. ■

Teachers union reports trouble understanding furlough days

Trustees 'reluctantly' move arts money into general fund

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Teachers union president Darren Day told the school board Tuesday night that teachers had trouble understanding the "layoff days" being negotiated with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. He said they ask him, "Did the teachers not do the work they were asked to?"

"Teachers ask me this all the time," he said.

Negotiations with the union are expected to center on voluntary furlough days for the entire district and Day, president of the San Ramon Valley Education Association, had been asked to give feedback from teachers on plans to enact furlough days, whereby teachers take a day off and are not paid for it.

Statistics provided by the district showed that each furlough day would save an estimated \$760,000. The spending plan being considered would have two furlough days next year, three the following year, and four the year after that.

"Have we done everything else we could?" Day asked. "What's best for kids is happy, honored teachers."

"It's important to all of us to feel we've been included in the decision," he added.

On Tuesday night, the school board also voted to "sweep" money from categorical programs funded by the state and divert them into the general fund to cover district shortfalls.

"Our superintendent has challenged us to prepare students for the 21st century," commented Barbara Farmer, visual arts teacher at California High School, during the public hearing, asking how students could be taught to think creatively when arts programs were being cut.

"As Einstein said, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge,'" she said.

"The state gave flexibility to the individual districts," reported Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Christine Williams, "and we had to look through all the categorical fundings."

"There is \$2.8 million in categorical funds to be moved into flexible funds," Williams said. "Sometimes we get the money late in the school year. Sometimes we don't spend all the money, we wait for a rainy day. The rainy day is here." Although, she noted, it will benefit the district generally rather than the art and music programs.

The cuts will take the art and music funding back to where it was three years ago, said Williams, before the extra funding came from the state.

"Did we build the budget with the idea that this would be swept?" asked Trustee Greg Marvel.

Williams said yes, that otherwise they would have had to make cuts somewhere else.

"We're impacting the quality of education to our kids," said Marvel but nonetheless moved to pass the cuts.

Trustee Rachel Hurd complimented Farmer on her comments and said, "Arts are important to develop out-of-the-box thinkers." She reluctantly seconded the motion.

"I'm as disappointed in this as anything," said Trustee Paul Gardner. "I believe arts is as important as science and reading and writing. But we are between a rock and a hard place and there is no comfortable place to go."

Trustee Ken Mintz commented that he shared everyone's frustrations.

Board president Bill Clarkson took the vote, which was unanimous, and commented, "It was a reluctant first move, a reluctant second, and a reluctant vote." ■

BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

2012-13 school year.

Enoch said despite the somewhat gloomy forecast, the budget they presented represents the best plan they have for the use of the funds they have.

"I actually believe that option 1 clearly represents the benefits we have received by passing Measure C. We would clearly be in a world of hurt without that," he explained.

School board members were frustrated by the depth of the cuts before them but many felt that adopting the more stringent spending plan of option 1, then directing staff to begin negotiations with the bargaining units was the better course.

The negotiations are expected to center on voluntary furlough days for the entire district. Statistics provided by the district showed that for each furlough day, they would save an estimated \$760,000. The spending plan being considered would have two furlough days next year, three the following year, and four the year after that.

Board member Paul Gardner gave his support to seeking the furlough days from the unions.

"Two furlough days will save some significant jobs. Total compensation cost of the district is less than 1 percent. We're talking about companies out there that are cutting salaries by 10-20 percent," he said.

"The revised budget from the governor is going to take another \$6.5 million away from us. We're operating with \$15 million less than we thought when this school year started."

Steve Enoch,
superintendent of San Ramon Valley Unified School District

Board President Bill Clarkson agreed.

"We need to be heroes to our children and our fellow employees. Losing 2 or 3 or 5 percent is nothing compared to the pain of losing your job, of not having a way to pay the mortgage," he stated.

For the most part, the board was in unison over the plan to adopt the budget, but member Greg Marvel questioned the loss of the specialized prep times at the elementary level and called on his fellow board members to reverse that cut.

"That provides an extra level of specialized instruction that helps

give the kids that extra boost in the elementaries that they will need in middle and high school," he said.

When Marvel was unable to get support from the board to reinstate the prep period, he moved that they approve the option 1 budget and immediately begin negotiations with the bargaining units in order to get the concessions needed to extend the programs as long as possible.

During the public hearing, more than half a dozen people spoke out about the issue. Measure C campaign co-director Denise Jennison called on the board to make sure amid all the program cuts and financial woes that the public is aware that Measure C is helping the situation.

"If we want to maintain our credibility with the community, you need to make it clear to this community just what that \$6.8 million is buying them," she stated. "I believe we have an obligation to let them know how it is helping."

Jennison also asked the board to work with teachers, staff and parents in a unified fashion and avoid pitting departments against each other in a quest for funding.

"We're a 'unified' school district," she said. "We still need to be unified when things get better."

After the public hearing, the board voted unanimously to approve option 1 and directed staff to begin the negotiations immediately. ■

DIABLO VIEWS

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Parading down Hartz means more than sore feet

What does the Fourth of July mean to you? Uncle Sam and independence? Barbecues? Fireworks? Sunstroke?

If you live in the San Ramon Valley, chances are your images of Independence Day include the Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade. It draws a crowd of 20,000-40,000 depending on which estimate you hear. After the Kiwanis luncheon last week, the Fourth has a new meaning for me—an awareness of how many good causes around here are helped out with proceeds from the parade.

At the luncheon, Kiwanis handed out more than \$30,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations, which was 75 percent of those groups that had made requests. To paraphrase one recipient: "Whoever said money doesn't buy happiness never worked for a small nonprofit." One after one, the recipients told heart-rending stories of programs to help children, the aging, stressed families and battered women. They provide hot meals for people down on their luck, and help for homebound hoarders. They tackle the problem of cyber-bullying against teens and preteens, and provide a place for people with Down Syndrome to express themselves and be with their peers. They provide counseling and support groups in times of stress, including seeing loved ones face the ends of their lives.

After listening to the grateful recipients I began to take pride in what the Danville Weekly does to promote the largest Fourth of July event in the area. The parade is one of two major fundraisers held by the Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley each year. The other is a golf tournament. But the golf tournament is limited to golfers and those who love them. The parade is open to anyone who wants to join in the fun and can walk, dance, ride or wheel the entire 1.2-mile route. You also have to be able to get there early enough to stand around for a few hours waiting for Kiwanian Dave Stegman to give you the signal to head on out.

When marching (OK, walking) down Hartz Avenue last July 4 holding the banner for the Danville Weekly Marching Band, I felt very much a part of the community and very patriotic, wearing my festive red, white and blue beads. We were lucky enough to have high school musicians march under our name, thanks to the efforts of San Ramon Valley High band leader Cheryl Yee Glass. This year I will also feel pride to know that the participants' financial contributions do so much good for worthy causes.

It's not necessary to become a member of the Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley to give something very important to the community through them. You only have to get together with co-workers, friends



FILE PHOTO

U.S. Marines march in the 2008 Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade in Danville.

or neighbors to join the parade. See which of the categories best describes you: marching unit, band, horse, float, majorette, antique auto, bicycle, novelty-comic, animal non-horse, special interest auto, Scout Troop, school, dance/theatrical, family, country club, neighborhood/homeowner association, church group, retain business, service business, sports team, community service/special interest-nonprofit community organizations and civic or public safety organizations.

There is also a category called Parade Theme, which this year is "Celebrating our Youth." Organizers are looking for one thousand young people to head up the parade, recruiting now for those 17 or younger who will dress up and ride a decorated bike, razor scooter, roller blades or any other non-motorized transportation. They have to wear helmets, and children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. These kids get to participate for free—a wonderful chance to be in the parade. Otherwise, commercial entries pay \$550; non-commercial, \$70; and veterans groups, \$50.

The lucky young people who start out the parade will be able to circle back and find a spot to settle and watch the rest of the marchers. That is if every square inch of the sidewalk isn't already reserved the night before. People have to wait until 6 p.m. July 3 to put out their chairs to reserve their spots, although I've heard that some people use chalk to mark their reserved spots before it's legal to put out the actual chairs. After walking the entire route last year I can tell you that there are some areas that are sparsely populated with parade-goers, especially toward the end of the route by the Livery.

I used to think it was tres cool to sponsor the Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade because I love the San Ramon Valley and it is such a wonderful local event. Now I think it's great because it does more than boost community camaraderie on the Fourth—it raises money for a multitude of good causes.

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

Danville Weekly

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of Alamo, Blackhawk,
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TOWN SQUARE

Joan Buchanan's bid for Congress

Readers of DanvilleWeekly.com offered the following comments in response to a guest opinion by David Abelmann that chastised Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, elected in November, for announcing that she is running to replace U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher in the 10th Congressional District.

To read David Abelmann's guest opinion or to read comments about a variety of subjects, visit DanvilleWeekly.com.

Readers' Comments

Joan Buchanan HAS violated an important trust. Let a committed candidate represent us in Sacramento. This is NOT a viral e-mail.

Dan from Danville

Joan Buchanan is less than useless and is a political hack at best. I am tired of politics as usual, and Ms. Buchanan is the local embodiment of this animal.

No one who actually reviews her record would vote for her, but since she carries the Democrat seal of approval, her record won't matter. This is a sad state of affairs when your political affiliation is more important than your record. Of course this mindset has gotten us into the position we find ourselves with little hope of it changing.

Shelby, a resident of Alamo

Bravo on the article. Yes—Joan Buchanan should resign.

Any candidate who—for greedy political ambitions—chooses to abandon his/her responsibilities to their constituents, should step down and make room for someone more responsible to carry on the duties.

Ike, a resident of Danville

Alamo region and Iron Horse corridor e-exchanges are questioning demands for Joan's resignation. It appears that a campaign in Solano and Contra Costa counties is coordinating resignation demands among conservative Republican without specifying any issues beyond Joan's interest in the 10th Congressional District.

There are claims of Joan's lack of performance in a very dysfunctional State Assembly that is operated by party politics against any individual member's ability to progress resolution of fiscal and operational decisions. Each party is positioned against the other with no interest in the realities and immediacies of fiscal management. Just look at the May 19th propositions as examples of various special interests attempting to work around Senate and Assembly politics.

So, Joan is interested in resolu-

tion at the federal level using a congressional seat and, likely, staff to resolve fiscal issues for California and our region. That cannot be considered abandoning her promised fiscal responsibility and moderate political commitments because it is simply delivering those promises at a larger, more receptive level of government.

Our neighbors in your readership area want to know any in-depth issues that are the basis of calls for Joan's resignation. As Rachel wrote to the e-exchanges, "If successful results in the State Assembly are the criteria for Assembly Members to retain their seats, then likely all members should resign!"

Community courtesy

I've said it before and I'll say it again. When you elect community activists instead of experienced business professionals this is what you get.

Rufous, a resident of Alamo

Politicians should be judged on what they accomplish as our public servants. A resume, once established, that can produce a record of dollars into the district is a politician's ticket to the next level of elected office. Working at gaining trust by showing competence and an ability to get things done on behalf of your constituents earns a person the right to stay in office; remember they stay in office because of "the consent of the governed."

Based on that criteria, and not how nice she is, but that criteria alone, one must question Joan Buchanan's irrational decision to run for Congress. She has been in elected state office barely 5 months. It is not like she is a seasoned legislative veteran. She has sponsored as far as one can tell, a single piece of legislation. She took no position during the budget votes, and to me most importantly, unlike Guy Houston, did not negotiate school equalization funding for SRVUSD. Please remember that Houston, a moderate republican, bought back millions during his tenure as our representative.

Buchanan, with her words, has clearly articulated that she is not really interested in serving in the State Assembly. And this comes at a most critical juncture. We need leadership in Sacto and Buchanan wants to bail for higher office. She is a political opportunist of the worst kind; all want no give.

DeSaulnier at least has a respectable multi-year track record of decent representation for his constituents (and I am not a supporter of his, never met the man).

Joan, and her supporters, wake up. This is not a swift boat attack. This is not a political attack. Those who call for her to resign, or at least rethink her decision, are citizens who would like honest, decent representation. Finish your

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Fine wine takes time

It was too bad that the Alamo Danville Artists' Society could not reopen its Pioneer Art Gallery in the vacant old Danville Hotel Restaurant, but the old building needed too much work to be economical as a temporary site for the artists. Most of the businesses have vacated the old 1950s Danville Territories with its false fronts and old western look although the Flower Shoppe recently moved into one of the vacant stores facing Prospect Avenue.

The economy has delayed development of this and other locations in town but don't be discouraged. Take heart from the success story of two other long-term projects: the Iron Horse Trail, and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, which opened 10 years ago, some 15 years after the museum group was established to search out the perfect site. The story of the museum effort is detailed in this week's cover story (page 12) and Presenting the Past column (page 16).

As for the Iron Horse Trail, the last Southern Pacific train ran on the San Ramon Branch Line through Danville in 1978 but it wasn't until 2001 that the Trail was completed in the San Ramon Valley. In those 23 years, extensive debates took place about the proper use of the railroad route, including for a light rail system. Early on, some folks hit on the idea of preserving the corridor for walking, biking and horseback riding, and Danville and San Ramon agreed to keep the right of way undeveloped.

Only through the efforts of many concerned residents was the trail eventually paved to become the popular recreation and transportation avenue it is today, maintained by the East Bay Regional Park District. The trail will eventually reach from Suisun Bay to Livermore, some 33 miles, traversing 12 cities in two counties. The coordination to put together this trail is mind-boggling. But it didn't happen overnight. When the railroad was first closed down, several scenarios evolved and many debates took place over its best use, including developing the 20-foot-wide swath of land.

In another public effort, the Veterans Memorial Building is currently undergoing the same extensive scrutiny, which gives us confidence that it will be as successful as the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in its usage and its appearance. The public process may seem to take a long time but Danville benefits from debating every aspect of a development—hence its success stories.

2 year term first and then let's see if you have the right stuff to represent us in Washington. Or dog catcher.

h. sachs, a resident of San Ramon

Joan should resign and in fact she should have never been voted into office. She is a typical self-serving politician looking to feather her nest and couldn't care less about the job at hand. If you think other wise...well let's just say, you lack good judgment.

I commend David Abelmann, Shelby, Ike, Jacqueline, Rufous, H. Sachs for their input and I'm sure there are thousands more like us that believe Joan Buchanan is a total waste of time.

Julia, a resident of Alamo

Joan did the responsible thing by soliciting ideas from a group here on what steps should be taken to balance the CA Budget. No mention was made of her CD-10 candidacy. "Coincidentally," Lt. Governor is a featured speaker today at the Memorial Day Event in Civic Park. Mark DeSaulnier is also appearing at campaign events. None of these remarks should be interpreted as implying which candidate I support, including Nick Gerber and Tom Del Beccaro, quietly waiting in the wings for the Democrats to fight with each other. As responsible voters, we should engage our lawmakers in CA budget solutions. Think about the havoc of having to fill a vacancy in AD-15.

Ralph Hoffmann, a resident of Walnut Creek

Community Pulse • Transitions

OBITUARIES

Leslie Charles Johnson

Danville resident Leslie Charles Johnson died May 8 in Danville at the age of 95.

He was born December 13, 1913, in Port Chicago. As a student at Mt. Diablo High School he excelled in many sports. He worked for 40 years at oil refineries near Martinez. He loved to duck hunt, travel, play golf, which he did into his 90s, follow the local pro sport teams, spend time with family and friends, tend to the garden and barbecue, and was proud of his Swedish heritage. Often he was found discussing sports, enjoying an event or meal out, and a glass of good red wine.

He was preceded in death by wives Rose Bellomo Johnson in 1961, Virginia Best Johnson in 2003, and his five siblings. He is survived by daughters Diana Butler of Healdsburg, Helen Gibson of Ventura, stepdaughter Jill (Marvin) Starr of Alamo, step granddaughter Kristi (Michael) Carter of Danville, grandchildren Leisa Butler and Grant (Jennifer) Butler both of Petaluma, Michael Gibson and Brent (Star) Gibson both of Ventura, and Kelly (Mat) Kennel of Redondo Beach and Chad (Heather) Best of Minneapolis, Minn.; great grandchildren Cade and Brook Butler of Petaluma, stepson Jack (Sonia) Best of Reno, Nev., step grandson Jeff Jones of Walnut Creek and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel at 1139 Saranap Ave., Walnut Creek. Donations in his memory may be made to Vitas Hos-

pice, 365 Lennon Lane, Suite 140, Walnut Creek 94598 or to a charity of choice.

Michael Edward Schaefer

Michael Edward Schaefer, a resident of Danville, died May 1 at the age of 65.

He was born Feb. 26, 1944, in Glendale to Louis Donald Fuller and Helen Marie Schaefer. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. In 1979 he founded Morning Star Outreach, a ministry to inner city kids. For 30 years he provided free summer camps for middle school age girls and boys. He was the owner and operator of Western Tire Inc. of Hayward for more than 42 years. He was married to Denise Schaefer for almost 35 years.

He is predeceased by his father Louis Donald Fuller and his stepfather, Felix Schaefer. He is survived

by his wife Denise; his mother Helen Schaefer; his brother Donald Schaefer; his sisters Felicia Schaefer and Charlene Suppes; his son and daughter-in-law, Joshua and Tracy Schaefer; his son, Jared Schaefer; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 9 at East Bay Fellowship in Danville, 2615 Camino Tassajara. Memorial donations can be made to Morning Star Outreach, 29444 Mission Blvd., Hayward 94544.

Mary 'Jean' Scott

Mary "Jean" Scott, a resident of Alamo, died peacefully May 7 at the age of 82.

She was born Feb. 23, 1927 in Yankton, S.D., attended high school in Omaha, Neb., and moved to California with her husband in 1948. She spent the majority of her life with her family in Walnut

Creek and Danville. She worked at the Naval Air Station in Alameda in the IBM section from 1950-55. She joined the Naval Air Station KEX Club in 1950 and remained active until her death.

She was predeceased by her husband of 58 years Howard L. Scott and her sister Marjorie Tennant. She is survived by her daughter Susan Wyman of Alamo, son Steven Scott of Ridgefield, Wash.; sisters Betty McBride of Alamo, Eloise Murray of Plattsmouth, Neb., Janice Haselhuhn of Emporia, Kan., brothers Ersie Salvatori of Ferris, Wash., and Derald Salvatori of Buckley, Wash.; son-in-law Bill Wyman; daughters-in-law Marjorie Scott, Dawna Scott and Kimberlee Scott; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. At her request, no services are planned. Remembrances may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., No. 100, Dublin 94568.

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, May 17

- Petty theft from vehicle on St. Ramon Ct. at 6:05 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Hardester Ct. at 11:04 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Plaza Cir. at 3:12 p.m.
- Petty theft on Calmar Vista Rd. at 5:25 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Liverpool St. at 5:25 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Contada Cir. at 7:10 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Plaza Cir. at 7:39 p.m.

Monday, May 18

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Greenbrook Dr. and Harlan Dr. at 2:09 a.m.
- Vandalism on Conway Ct. at 8:35 a.m.
- Vandalism on La Pera Cir. at 8:55 a.m.
- Petty theft on Rancho Verde Cir. W. at 2 p.m.
- Battery, arrest, on El Pintado Rd. at 8:08 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19

- Auto burglary on Dolphin Dr. at 7:28 a.m.
- Vandalism on Old Orchard Dr. at 9:58 a.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Alviso Way at 10:43 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Del Amigo Rd. at 11:06 a.m.
- Grand theft on Front St. at 12:43 p.m.
- Petty theft on Front St. at 1 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Front St. at 1:48 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Ramon and El Capitan Dr. at 2:05 p.m.
- Vandalism on Silver Lake Dr. at 5:16 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on northbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:18 a.m.
- Grand theft on Silver Chief Pl. at 10:55 a.m.

See **POLICE** on Page 11

Come Join Us in San Ramon for a
Family Fun Day!

at

The Plaza
AT GALE RANCH

Saturday, June 6th ~ Noon – 3:00 P.M.

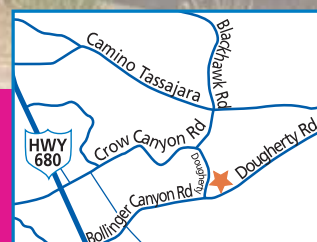
- **Live Music** by Alvon Johnson's All Stars
- **FREE** Reusable Shopping Bags from Safeway to first 500 Visitors
- **Face Painter • Balloon Twister**
- **FREE** Fingerprinting by San Ramon Police Dept. Volunteers
- **Airbrush Artist** at Gale Ranch Dental "Wheel of Fortune" and more...
- **FREE** Samples at Fantastic Sam's
- **FREE** Tastings at Peet's Coffee, Top This Yogurt, & King Palace Chinese Cuisine
- **Kid's Crafts & Book Sale** by San Ramon Library
- Come see the **Wells Fargo Stagecoach**
- **FREE** Lemonade & Cookies and **FREE** Eyeglass Adjustments & Cleaning Cloths at Site For Sore Eyes
- **FREE** Kids Safety Activity Book to first 500 Kids
- **FREE** Nail Painting for Kids at ZaZa Nail Salon
- **Plus More Surprises!!!**

Fun for the Whole Family!

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Crystal Cleaners736-8765	Intero Real Estate ..Coming Soon	SubwayComing Soon
Fantastic Sam's736-7864	King Palace Chinese	Top This Yogurt.....736-2230
Fat Cactus Grill & Bar ..964-0444	Cuisine.....964-1328	Union Bank648-5280
Flooring Superstore.....736-8989	Peet's Coffee & Tea964-9195	Wells Fargo Bank.....736-3370
Gale Ranch Dental.....648-8881	Provident Credit Union ..648-0684	ZaZa Nails.....648-9944



**Dougherty Road & Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon**

POLICE BULLETIN

Early morning drug bust at Diablo Vista Park

A 19-year-old Santa Clara man is facing felony drug charges after a sizable quantity of marijuana was found in his vehicle in Danville predawn Saturday morning.

Danville Police Officer Paul Murphy was on routine patrol at 4 a.m. Saturday at Diablo Vista Park when he saw a vehicle parked in the southwest corner of the lot, according to Sgt. Dan Hoffman.

As he approached the vehicle he saw two people walking away from the Jeep Grand Cherokee and made contact. The pair turned out to be the vehicle owner, identified as Alexander Cramer, and a 14-year-old local female. Cramer told police the girl was a relative.

Murphy and another patrolman requested permission to search the vehicle after noticing a backpack in the rear of the jeep. On opening the door, the officer detected an odor of marijuana, said Hoffman. The search of the backpack revealed nothing, but the second officer, Brian Slinger, found a hidden panel in the jeep's floor that led into a small hollow.

Inside the hollow were two gallon-sized Ziploc bags. The first contained several empty smaller Ziploc bags. The second contained 26 small Ziplocs containing a green leafy substance officers identified

as marijuana.

Cramer was taken into custody and charged with one felony count of possession of marijuana for sale. The juvenile was not charged. Cramer was taken into custody and transported to the Martinez Detention Center.

—Geoff Gillette

DUI arrests down for Memorial Day weekend

The California Highway Patrol reported that its three-day enforcement in the Bay Area over the Memorial Day weekend ended with 520 drivers arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, down from last year's 555 arrests. During this period, three deaths have been attributed to a drinking driver; there was one alcohol-related death last year.

In the Bay Area, 125 police departments from nine counties joined forces for the massive regional DUI campaign, including Contra Costa, Napa, Santa Clara, Alameda, Solano, Sonoma, San Mateo, Marin and San Francisco counties.

Statewide, CHP officers have arrested 1,465 drivers for driving under the influence, up from last year's provisional totals of 1,450 for the 2008 Memorial Day Weekend.

—staff reports

POLICE

Continued from Page 10

■ Unwanted guest disturbance, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. at 11:23 a.m.

■ Drunk in public, arrest, on Front St. at 2:54 p.m.

Thursday, May 21

■ Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Blackhawk Rd. and Camino Tassajara at 7:48 a.m.

■ Residential burglary on Matadera Way at 10:17 a.m.

■ Residential burglary on Barcelona Pl. at 12:36 p.m.

■ Warrant arrest on La Gonda Way at 12:44 p.m.

■ Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 2:36 p.m.

■ Grand theft on Fostoria Way at 6:21 p.m.

Friday, May 22

■ Fight disturbance, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 7:14 a.m.

■ Accident, major injuries, on Danville Blvd. at 6:07 p.m.

■ Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and McCauley Rd. at 10:41 p.m.

Saturday, May 23

■ Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and El Pintado Rd. at 12:43 a.m.

■ Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Railroad Ave. and School St. at 1:35 a.m.

■ Investigation, arrest, on Swan St. at 3:37 a.m.

■ Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 11:12 a.m.

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DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The freight room has a door that allows a peek at the original wall, which was frequently repainted as protection against the big shipping crates that banged it.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Volunteer June Hannon shows the original freight scale from 1891, which was calibrated each year by the county to make sure shippers were charged correctly.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The roughhewn floor of the freight room has its original square nails; restorers filled the gaps with rope to keep visitors from tripping.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

If only the old Southern Pacific train depot in Danville could talk. It could tell tales of dramas in the waiting room, the station manager living upstairs, and tons of produce passing through its portals during the heydays of agriculture in the Valley.

Since starting its life as the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the 1990s it could tell about “Irma’s strippers,” who meticulously removed more than half an inch of paint under the guidance of Irma Dotsoni, and the Robber Baron Balls that were held to finance the renovation.

The depot was originally located a block further south, near Lunardi’s, in 1891. After the end of passenger service in 1934, the building was owned by Joe Ramos Jr. who painted the building red and used it as a feed and grain store for the farm community. The Southern Pacific continued to pass through town with freight, with the last train in 1978.

Ramos painted the depot red. He made himself a home upstairs where he even installed a hot tub, said Gary DeAtley, who was head of the Restoration and Renovation Committee.

“Joe Ramos took great care of the inside of the building,” DeAtley said. “Over the years some walls had been moved. Indoor plumbing was added 1919-1920, but it was basically a kitchen with a small living area and two bedrooms. All the flooring and paneling are original, and it still has the original light fixtures and light sockets.”

Meanwhile the idea for a museum was growing with members of the San Ramon Valley Historical Society, which formed a Museum Feasibility Committee. See Presenting the Past, page 16.

When Ramos passed away, the Town of Danville wanted the land for a municipal parking lot—where the farmers market is held—but had no use for the building so helped procure it for the museum.

“The final negotiations were that the town leased the land that the depot is now sitting on to the museum for 75 years for \$1 a year,” said DeAtley. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley board of trustees paid another dollar for the depot with the stipulation that it was responsible for moving the building, restoring it and turning it into a museum.

“We moved the depot in June of 1996,” recalled DeAtley.

They interviewed several movers and hired the Lopez Brothers, who had experience moving old buildings. They jacked up the depot and put it on wheels.

“Then it slowly started moving down the road, pulled by a tractor,” remembered DeAtley.

“It was a warm beautiful day—but it was a very frightening day,” said DeAtley. “We’d planned a celebration because we wanted people to come down and they did.”

The movers were surprised at the weight of the depot. “What we didn’t realize when it was moved was that still inside of it was an internal brick chimney,” DeAtley said. The depot had two potbelly stoves, one in the waiting room and one in the ticket office, but the latter had been blocked off years before and forgotten.

The depot was put onto wooden beams and concrete blocks. A new foundation was built underneath it.

“Then the restoration project started in earnest,” said DeAtley. “We had to do all new electrical, meet earthquake standards, all the internal walls had to be taken out to add new insulation and new wiring, then all the internal walls had to be put back in.”

The outside of the building was cut redwood but many layers of paint had to be removed before they could see it.



The Museum of the San Ramon Valley held a party when it moved the old Danville depot half a block.

ALL ARE FOR H

Museum of the San Ramon Valley ce

“Especially the freight room had been painted so many times over the years it was almost half an inch thick, to protect the side of the building from the big shipping crates that banged against it,” said DeAtley.

The 10-year celebration next week is the anniversary of the museum opening its doors for business. The intervening three years saw DeAtley at the depot almost daily, removing the paint, sometimes wearing a mask to protect against fumes from the paint thinner.

“Bill Riley and I stripped the entire building on the outside,” said DeAtley. “We’d be over there at lunch and dinner and Saturday and Sunday for two-and-a-half years. We couldn’t use a power hose or anything; we had to be careful.”

The project cost \$750,000, recalled DeAtley, raised by volunteers. Sunset Development, Longs Foundation and the Leshar Foundation donated money toward the project, he recalled.



The ticket window in the former waiting room area and gift shop.



block north in 1996. Once it was on its new foundation, a cadre of volunteers tackled the restoration.

BILL HOCKINS

BOARD HISTORY

celebrating 10 years in historic train depot



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

room is now a good way to look into the greeting

“Our rallying cry became ‘Save the depot,’” he said. “We had at least three Robber Baron Balls at Diablo Country Club to raise dollars.”

His committee members met at 7 a.m. each Friday from 1993 to 1999 as they planned the restoration.

“No. 1, in the first year, we had to teach ourselves about historical restoration, what’s right and what’s wrong,” he said. “We started working with historic architects and would make decisions on things like what kind of roof needed to be put on, what kind of heating system, whether or not we would take down walls, or put them up.”

They removed all of the windows temporarily for the restoration but 40 percent of the glass is original and even more is original to the period. They also researched the original paint colors.

“Irma’s strippers took all the hardware off and stripped it and returned it to the

way it looked originally. It’s brass and iron and nickel,” DeAtley recalled. “We turned into maintenance guys.”

“Finally when we had the bulk of the money, we put the rest of the restoration out to bid,” he said. That included water and sewer hookups, electrical wiring, landscaping and the sidewalks.

Then they came up with the idea of engraved bricks, and ended up selling about 3,000 at \$50 apiece. They are laid on the front and side of the land around the depot.

“Finally we decided one way or another we were going to open this thing in June 1999,” said DeAtley. “We put the pedal to the metal, and still the day before opening we were sanding floors and scraping windows.”

“We were well organized but we were running out of time,” he added.

The depot had been transformed. The large freight room became the main exhibit space. The former ticket office is now the greeting center, where volunteers are available to take entry fees and answer questions, and a gift shop.

The waiting room, where passengers bought tickets and waited for their trains, is now the museum library and the workroom for the docents as they catalogue photos and hold meetings. The station master’s residence is more offices and storage.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration of the opening being held June 7 will include a reenactment of the original ribbon cutting ceremony, with original participants. In the last decade the original board members have stayed involved and the list of active volunteers has grown to more than 200.

“The museum is viewed with admiration by other local history museums in the Tri-Valley and Contra Costa County because of its level of volunteers, tours, service to school-age kids, collections (and our ability to find documented archives), the quality of exhibits,” said curator Beverly Lane. “It is always interesting for me to see their reactions. They often say, ‘You have how many volunteers?!’ So many museums are barely open and have perhaps five stalwart volunteers to hold museums open. Those which are supported by their cities get staff hired, then released as budgets get tight. Here the volunteers hold everything together.”

Jack Hamel, who created the timeline frieze that runs around the top of the freight room, is also responsible for the Anniversary Celebration display, which will be a compilation of exhibits from the last 10 years.

“There will be 23 discrete exhibits,” said Hamel. “We’re going to have a train exhibit, too, and a quilt display.”

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is also assembling a display called “Ablaze,” which will tell its history and include old firefighting equipment.

The recently renovated baggage room will have an exhibit to explain the special programs of the museum, such as the downtown walking tours and the One-Room Schoolhouse that every third-grader in the School District visits to experience living history. The school passport program has students visit historic sights throughout the Valley and get their passports stamped. This program has proven informative for parents, too.

“A little display will have items that are collected from the community,” said Hamel. “We’re hoping to encourage people to donate things.”

And there will be a display with photos of the depot being moved.

“We all take great pride in the museum,” said DeAtley, who is still on the board. “It’s really become a landmark in the town and is very much appreciated by everybody.” ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Southern Pacific caboose was purchased along with tracks, wood ties and spikes for \$9,000, including delivery, to serve as a restroom for the museum and Iron Horse Trail users.

Red caboose is a real loo-loo

The Southern Pacific caboose behind the Museum of the San Ramon Valley completes the railroad package. And it’s functional. It houses two restrooms and yet another display—of people traveling on the train in the early 1900s.

The idea for putting restrooms inside a caboose is credited to Steve Lake, Development Services Director for the Town of Danville. Some thought was given to building restrooms that looked like a caboose but then the committee decided it wanted to have the real deal.

Barbara Hubinger was assigned the mission of finding the perfect old caboose for the job. She learned from railroad buffs about a train yard owned by Jim Dobbas Inc. in Antelope, a little north of Sacramento, which purchases and resells railroad cars.

Caboose provided a home on the tracks for the train engineers, Hubinger explained, and they come in two styles—some have a cupola that allows the engineer to see over the track and others have bay windows for viewing. The yard had nine cabooses for sale.

“We preferred a cupola, but when we looked at this one with a bay window we thought we’d found what’s exactly right for Danville,” she recalled. “We wanted a Southern Pacific because that was the line.” The one they chose was built in June 1951, a Southern Pacific Class C 30-6.

“We made an agreement with them that we would make a down payment and they would keep it for us until we were ready to have it shipped,” Hubinger said.

When the track was in place, the caboose was put onto the back of a truck to travel down I-5, over I-80 and down I-680 to arrive at its new home in Danville.

The initial price was about \$9,000 for the caboose, two sets of track and the transportation costs to Danville, reported Hubinger. There was also the cost of renting the crane, laying the tracks, lifting the caboose onto the tracks, and constructing the two restrooms plus the exhibit.

Since the facility serves patrons of the Iron Horse Trail, it qualified for a \$50,000 grant from the East Bay Regional Park District, which runs the trail.

Hubinger said they have preserved graffiti on the caboose that was probably put there by a conductor who lived in it or a hobo who regularly rode the rails.

She reports that the caboose is fondly called “Loo” by the volunteers at the depot museum. ■

Happy birthday to history

What: 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley with train rides, hayrides, ice cream, music, exhibits from the last 10 years, and a reenactment of the original ribbon cutting ceremony

When: Noon-5 p.m., Sunday, June 7

Where: Museum of the San Ramon Valley, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville

Information: Call 847-4750 or visit www.museumsv.org/



GEOFF GILLETTE

"View from the Bay" host Spencer Christian (left) jokes around with co-host Audrey Mansfield (center) and floral designer Ria Sim while the three rehearse for Sim's appearance on the daily talk show. Sim, a Danville resident, said that having fun on the set is one of the charms of being a frequent guest on View from the Bay. "They are so open and inviting," Sim enthused. "They just make you feel like you're part of the family."

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Ninety minutes before air time, the set of KGO-TV's "View from the Bay" is frenetic. Motorized cameras swirl around the set in an electronic ballet choreographed by a watchful cameraman; producers and stage manager Jean Tuckerman calm the fears of a jittery restaurant chef who has realized he does not have all the ingredients he needs for his food demonstration; and co-host Spencer Christian breezes through the set, paper bag in hand with the vain hope that he'll have a chance to bolt down lunch before the cameras start rolling.

At the center of this storm of activity, calm and serene, surrounded by vibrantly colored flowers and beautiful scents, is Ria Sim.

The Danville mother of two, owner of the floral shop Ria Sim Designs/Twigs Studio, is an often requested guest on the show, which has been on the air for a year and a half.

"This just sort of fell in my lap," she explained. "I was a fan of the show. I sent them a letter with one of my plants. I got an e-mail from the executive producer saying they will put me in touch with one of the producers."

"View from the Bay" producer Jason Fong said they took one look at the floral arrangement Sim had sent and decided to get her on the show.

"We loved what she sent us. There was no interview, the only thing we needed to know was if she could talk," he said.

Fong said after meeting her, he could tell it was going to be a natural fit for the show. "She had a perfect look, a perfect angle, she was this 'momprenneur' who owned her own shop."

Sim said that first show started a relationship between her and "View from the Bay."

"They kept on calling me back. We have this great relationship and now I'm on basically once a month," she said.

Flowers with a flair

Danville florist shares her design magic on 'View from the Bay'

Co-host Spencer Christian said that Sim has been coming on the show almost as long as they've been on the air and, for him, it's been a very enjoyable relationship.

"From the first time she appeared on the show, we all thought she was an absolute natural," he said. "You know, a lot of guests who haven't done TV before are nervous and intimidated. She was lively and fun and she has only gotten better as time passed. She's one of our favorite contributors."

Christian said one of the things that makes the segments with Sim fun is that she is able to bring in new and different flower arrangements and make them interesting and doable for the audience.

"You watch her segment and you think, 'I could do that,'" he said.

Sim said she enjoys the experience of coming up with ideas for projects to present on the show. And for her, being able to do it at reasonable prices is an important part to the things she picks.

"I didn't grow up with a lot of money, so I had to be creative. And I'm a mom so I have to be practical," she explained.

On the show that aired May 6, Sim showed Spencer and fellow host Audrey Mansfield how to use the plastic ring in the center of flower tape to make a wrist corsage for prom season. She also talked about which flowers are beautiful but less expensive and can be found in many back yards as well as at local stores.

She ended her segment by quickly throwing together a boutonniere for Spencer and pinning it to his lapel.

While the experience has been fun and enjoyable, it has also allowed Sim to grow her business. What started as an enterprise based out of her home has grown to a shop in downtown Danville next to Starbucks.

"I've been very fortunate that I've gotten a lot of people who've come in after seeing the show and they want me to do their weddings or other things." With a grin she added, "I've gotten some celebrity clients, some I can't even tell you who they are. But I can say that Ellen Degeneres named us as her favorite Danville florist after seeing what we have."

Sim said she doesn't know where it's all going but so far it's led to other opportunities in her burgeoning television career.

"They asked me to start doing another show, too, 'Live Well HD,'" she explained.

"View from the Bay" is local to the Bay Area market, but "Live Well HD" is a national show broadcast on the digital channels as well as online. Sim does segments similar to what she does on "View of the Bay."

"It's such a great compliment to be asked to do that show. I honestly never thought I'd get that far," she said. ■



THE WINE GUY

By Don Colman

Combining barbecue, wine and a boss

2006 Quivira Zinfandel

Dry Creek Valley
\$20

Given these economic times it is always wise to make sure that upper management knows how much you love them. It is called "managing up." I figured the time was right to invite my boss' family over for a BBQ.

There are two things you need to know about my boss. First, he is a great guy—very friendly and honest. He has no problem with telling you that you are doing a great or terrible job. Second, he

Pairing this food with any grilled red meat would be ideal and which makes this the perfect summer grilling wine.

loves wine. I knew this meant if he did not like the wine, he would have no problem telling me to toss it. Not an ideal outcome!

So here was the plan. He is from the East Coast and not used to West Coast food yet. I thought I would wean him onto some western red meat. Tri-tip is unknown back east, so a teriyaki tri-tip was perfect, served with a balsamic vinaigrette salad and marinated/roasted vegetables. The stumbling block was the wine. I came across the 2006 Quivira Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley and thought I'd give it a shot.

This was not my typical tasting environment. Normally, I sit with a pen and paper, write notes and

look at a variety of factors with respect to the wine. This taste would be based on two things.

First, my boss' reaction to it. In this case, it really did not matter how I felt about the wine, but rather job security comes from upper management's positive experience. I think it is safe to say that he liked it. After the first couple of sips he looked at his wife and said that she could drive home and immediately filled his glass (whew!).

Second, my memory of the wine after a long night of entertaining. This Quivira was flawless. Right from the start, it had a nice deep ruby red color yet was clear as could be. The nose of the wine was loaded with vanilla and blackberries, exactly what Zinfandels are supposed to smell like.

This Zinfandel is a beautifully dry wine, that is medium to full-bodied. It is not overpowering with tannins, but has just enough to allow it to pair nicely with a heavier piece of meat. The wine is very flavorful, loaded with oak and a sweet, long finish. Pairing this food with any grilled red meat would be ideal and which makes this the perfect summer grilling wine.

At \$20, this is a very reasonably priced wine that makes a very good impression. It is nice enough to be served to important guests, but cheap enough that it can be bought for everyday consumption. Know that you can purchase this as a gift wine, as most discriminating connoisseurs will keep reaching for more. I hope you enjoy the wine as much as I did (and more importantly as much as my boss did). Until next time, cheers!

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

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PRESENTING THE PAST

BY BEVERLY LANE

A decade in the depot and a silver anniversary

On Sunday, June 7, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley will celebrate 10 years in the restored Danville depot. In that decade new exhibits have been mounted, quality programs for schools have served thousands of children, and volunteers have collected fascinating items which reflect the history and culture of the valley.

The museum itself is almost 25 years old. It began in 1985, after a San Ramon Valley Historical Society committee examined steps to provide a museum. The committee decided that it would be best to set up a separate board to create a museum to serve Alamo, Danville, Diablo, San Ramon and Blackhawk. Both organizations' primary objectives are to preserve historical knowledge and provide programs on the San Ramon Valley; the museum was expected to establish and operate a museum with archives, exhibits and a research library.

A 15-member Board of Trustees was set up and by-laws adopted, and the museum was established as a California nonprofit organization. The first meeting on Feb. 27, 1985, was chaired by Irma Dotson, who had headed the Society's feasibility committee. The first elected officers were President Beverly Lane, Vice President Pat Boom, Secretary Betty Overholzer, and Treasurer Dick Moulds. Others on the initial board, chosen from throughout the valley (and including four members from the society), were Byron Athan, Arnold Blackmur, Bonnie Dailey, Irma Dotson, Jack Estenson, Rose Ferreira, Roz Hirsch, Lowell Hooper, Al Kaplan, Bob Morton and Arlene Pearson.

The trustees visited other history museums and looked at possible museum buildings and sites in the San Ramon Valley. Likely spots on the list were Wood Ranch in Sycamore Valley, Magee Park, Danville depot, Borel Ranch, Tassajara School and Boone Ranch.

As they looked and talked, members also organized walking tours, school programs and annual exhibits. Historical Society members Millie Freitas, Rose Ferreira and Betty Overholzer (later Dunlap) had given walking tours of downtown Danville and they helped new volunteers learn to provide the tours.

Two school programs began in that decade. One was the Indian Life program based on Gail Faber's special fourth-grade programs and a state-adopted curriculum which she and fellow teacher Michele Lasagna created. It is now provided in the museum each fall.

The other was a living history program for third grades, begun by Joan and Don Kurtz, Patty Connett and Alice Reynolds. The restored Tassajara School became

the location for this very popular one-room school experience. This year 2,200 children will step back to 1888 at the school.

In the early nineties, the Danville Fine Arts Gallery (upstairs at the Village Theatre) offered a time for history exhibits. After a 1991 museum exhibit that celebrated the Southern Pacific centennial in the Valley, a new exhibit committee was initiated by Oakland museum history docents Jeanne Aitken, Ginny Iverson, Don and Joan Kurtz and Beverly Lane. From 1992-97, annual chronological exhibits were mounted, which featured Indians, the Hispanic era, ranching, the era of the railroad, the early and later 20th century—six exhibits in all. Carlo Borlandelli, Ralph Cozine, Irma Dotson, Betty and Paul Dunlap, Jack Hamel and Don Wood joined the history docents to create these exhibits and then exhibits in the depot.

When Joe Ramos Jr. passed away in 1987, the Danville depot he had owned for decades became available. The depot became the museum building with the cooperation of the Danville Town Council. Funds were raised by the Alamo-Danville Soroptimists and an energetic brick committee and grants were received from the Cowell Foundation, the J. M. Long Foundation and the East Bay Regional Park District.

A favorite memory for the community was the depot move in 1996, when the Lopez family movers agreed to move the entire building at 10 a.m. one summer Sunday morning. The depot gradually traveled north on Railroad and was placed on its current site at the northern end of the original Danville station plot.

Gradually volunteers on the Board of Trustees and its committees have created an organization that is outstanding in the quality of its collections, exhibits and programs. Nearly 200 volunteers make it all happen.

History books are available on the Danville Grange, Vintage Danville, the Peters Family Ranch ("Footprints in the Soil"), the San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific, Remembering Alamo and an Images of America photograph book on the San Ramon Valley.

Today the museum has added a unique Local History Curriculum for third-grade teachers and a popular history passport for students and parents. Programs such as the former Whistle Stop Lectures and recent Living Treasures have enriched our Valley. Today, volunteer historic characters research pioneers and enliven the Alamo Cemetery Tours.

Many devoted people and groups helped create the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Today it is a significant community resource for young and old and an important gathering place in the heart of the valley. A great reason to have a party.

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

ART SCENE

You can draw if you want to, says renowned local artist

Even though I couldn't see what she was doing while I sat for a pastel portrait by noted local artist Beth Batchelor in her spacious Alamo studio, I still learned, for example, that the human face is approximately five eyes wide and seven high. She dispensed this and other knowledge—accumulated over more than 70 years of artistic endeavor—as her students watched her render me.

After winning a Brooklyn Museum textile design competition when she was 13, Batchelor studied commercial art at Cooper Union Art School and Girls' Commercial Art High School in Brooklyn. She then went on to work in the field, doing jobs for Ford, TWA, Minute Maid and Pepsi-Cola, among others in New York City. But her first love was acting, she reveals, and she was once in a high school drama class with Susan Hayward.

Although she now focuses primarily on portraiture, the commercial training still stands her in good stead. Just last year, she created the poster for Alamo's tree lighting.

What's her angle?

Batchelor is a master of "quick portrait sketching." She can produce a creditable likeness of a person in about three minutes. Her work on me took longer because she was doing a full-fledged version and teaching in the process.

Before I started sitting, she asked me if I could draw a cat.

"No," I replied.

"Lots of people think they don't have talent," she chided me. "Can you draw a few straight lines? If you can just follow the direction of a line and feel like doing it, you can."

She proceeded to scratch a couple of Vs, one inverted, on top of the other, into my notebook. Those became the feline's nose and mouth, and in about 20 seconds, a kitty was staring at me.

Batchelor is in the process of putting on the page her artistic tricks and wisdom, for a book



Theresa Quevedo

Beth Batchelor, a talented artist for seven decades, works in her spacious Alamo studio. She now focuses primarily on portraiture.

tentatively entitled "What's Your Angle: A Shortcut for Artists." She has no dearth of material for the text. Although her studio is spacious, it is also cluttered with her work and numerous scrapbooks full of photos, clippings, curricula, drawings and other memorabilia accumulated during her long career.

That career includes founding the Alamo Danville Artists Society (ADAS) in 1977, which is still active today, and the Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art in 2001. She has been teaching locally since she moved to Alamo, in 1970.

I learned much of this as her lines metamorphosed into my likeness. After she finished my portrait, she was working feverishly to complete a painting for the San Ramon Community Players production of "Harvey."

"I have to have this done by Tuesday (in oil)," she noted on Saturday, without particular concern about pulling it off.

92 and Going Strong

To call Batchelor energetic for a nonagenarian (she turns 92 in July) would be an understatement. My back was killing me after protracted sitting, but she was perched birdlike on her stool, drawing, kibitzing and educating, going full tilt the whole time.

To put it in Dan Ratheresque terms, the petite Batchelor has more energy than a caffeine/guarana/sugar-fueled adolescent. But she attributes her longevity and good health in part to avoiding artificial coloring and other toxic and unhealthy substances that pervade the food supply.



Portrait of columnist John A. Barry by Beth Batchelor.

This approach seems to be working just fine, as she shows no signs of slowing down. "Nobody will let me retire," she says, "because they keep giving me commissions." See more of her work at bethbatchelor.com.

Open Studios Update

ADAS plans to replace its annual Open Studios with a new venue on Sunday, June 7. The event, called "Artists at Work," will be held in the parking lot at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and will be open to all artists. Those with home studios are welcome to open them as well. For more information, contact adasnewsletter@sbcglobal.net.

John A. Barry is a writer and aspiring artist. To share anything art-related, call him at 314-9528 or e-mail jobarry@pacbell.net.

OF NOTE

Exchange Club honors teens

The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley's 2009 Heritage Scholarship Speaker Series Essay Contest focused on: "Your Vote—How Does it Count?" The following winners were announced:

■ First place: David Eliahu of Monte Vista High,

\$1000;

■ Second: Katherine Zhang of Dougherty Valley, \$500;

■ Third: Steven Lau of Cal High, \$250; Shree Patel of Dougherty Valley, \$250; and Amanda Swenson of San Ramon Valley, \$250.

Grants and donations were from PG&E and Sheriff Warren Rupf. The awards were presented at a San Ramon City Council meeting by Tom Guarino of PG&E, Sheriff Warren Rupf, Exchange Club President Karen Stepper, and Roxanne Lindsay, Essay Speaker Series Co-Producer and Fire District Director.



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.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Paige Southmayd holds her own on the Lacrosse field as the Monte Vista girls beat California High for the North Coast Section championship Saturday.



The Monte Vista Women's Lacrosse Team won the North Coast Section Championship for D-1 athletics for the first time in the school's history.

Lady Mustangs lacrosse wins NCS

The Monte Vista Women's Lacrosse Team won the North Coast Section Championship for D-1 athletics for the first time in the school's history. The Mustangs final game was a victory Saturday afternoon against California High, 17-8, held at Dublin High School.

Senior Jillian Bush scored five goals to lead No. 14 Monte Vista to the win, while senior Aimee Dewan and junior Lauren Goerz each added four points on three goals and one assist. Monte Vista junior goalie Sarah Tucker saved 12 shots.

Monte Vista led 7-4 at halftime and began to pour it on during the final 25 minutes. Goerz scored two quick goals to start the second half, and Monte Vista never looked back.

The Monte Vista men made it to the NCS finals in lacrosse then lost to De La Salle, 17-5, on Saturday. Both men and women beat Amador Valley High at Monte Vista on May 20 to get to the finals.



BASCAL soccer champs

The San Ramon Valley Christian Academy Eagles girls soccer team won the 2009 BASCAL Championship on May 10 for the second year in a row. Melissa Lewis scored both goals. BASCAL is a league of 19 schools located throughout the Bay Area.

Rebuilding year for SRVHS baseball

As we near the end of the school year unfortunately the end of the baseball season has come, too. This last week was a bittersweet one for the Wolves baseball team. San Ramon made its first NCS playoff in a while, but it ended much too quickly. The first playoff matchup ended up being the last. The Wolves faced off against Newark Memorial High school and lost 3-0. Once again the Wolves offense was its Achilles heel. The Wolves were the lower seed playing in unknown territory, with ace Alex Palsha out with a sore elbow. Third pitcher Augey Bill had a great performance only giving up three runs.

Even though San Ramon did not go far in the playoffs, this year was above expectations. Even with probably the youngest lineup in the league the Wolves scratched their way into the playoffs. Another accomplishment for San Ramon this season is that they ended the season above the .500 mark, which they also haven't done in a while.

The Wolves also had a couple of individual accomplishments with both first basemen Craig Massoni and pitcher/outfielder Alex Palsha receiving first team all league awards. A great feat seeing as both of these players are only in their junior year. With all of this young talent, next season is expected to be a great one and expectations won't just be for the playoffs, it will be for the championship.

—Tanner Himmelman



JEFFREY S. WEIL

Leaping Yankees!

Yankees catcher Ryan Marsh leaps into the air as A's Matthew Schierman of Alamo slides into home May 16 as the two teams face off in the San Ramon Valley Little League Majors Division. The A's won, 2-1. The A's are coached by Larry Fleming; manager of the Yankees is Bill Hooper and other coaches are Jeff Jones and Scott Marsh, seen in the background.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday-Saturday, May 30-June 1

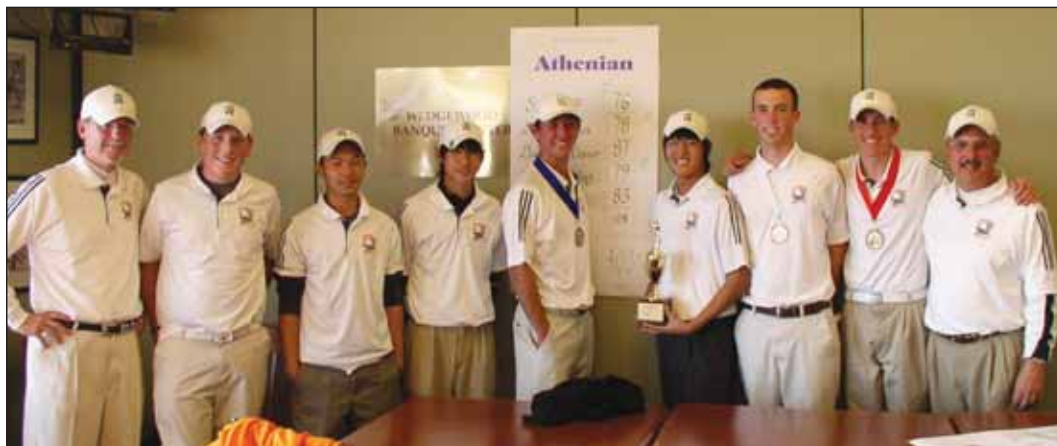
TRACK AND FIELD

■ NCS Meet of Champions at UC Berkeley

Saturday, May 30

SOFTBALL

■ NCS Championship



Athenian golfers drive to the top

The Athenian Golf Team won the BCL East title for the third year in a row, the League Tournament for the fourth year in a row, and MVP honors for the third year in a row. The league record since mid 2006 is 38-0. Athenian golfers are (l-r) Assistant Coach Eric Stoddard, Connor Dougherty, Sean Tran, Jacky Lin, Jeff Sohn, Yoo Kim, Keating Wallau, Dan Bernhard, and Head Coach Walt Abraham.

Auditions

DANVILLE GIRLS CHORUS This group will be holding auditions for the upcoming 2009-2010 season for girls in grades 3-8 from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, at San Ramon Valley High School's chorus room. No musical experience is required. The season begins Sept. 2. There is a \$25 audition fee. For an appointment, call 837-2624 or e-mail danville_girls_chorus@hotmail.com.

Civic Meetings

ALAMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL Alamo Community Council meets at 5 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, Swain House, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. The public is welcome to attend.

ALAMO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the Alamo Improvement Association are held from 7-9 p.m., on the second Thursday of every month, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The 54-year-old membership organization of Alamo households supports preserving Alamo as a semi-rural community. Call 314-0521 or visit www.alamoca.org.

DANVILLE PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMISSION The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

DANVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

MAYOR'S MORNING Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich will host the next Mayor's Morning at 7:30 a.m., Friday, June 5, at Chow's, 445 Railroad Ave., Danville. Mayor's Mornings are usually at 7:30 a.m., on the first Friday of every month. Call 314-3401.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING The Danville Town Council normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

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.

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,

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY

50th Anniversary free concert: Diablo Theatre Company (formerly Diablo Light Opera Company) will host a free concert to celebrate its 50th anniversary featuring songs from "Hello, Dolly!" and "Guys and Dolls" at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at Civic Park, at Civic Drive at Broadway, in Walnut Creek. Terry Darcy DiEmidio as Dolly Gallagher Levi is pictured here from "Hello, Dolly!" Seating will begin at 4 p.m. Call 944-1565.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT SAN RAMON VALLEY METHODIST San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host Camp Edge for children including two sessions: 6:15-8:15 p.m., Sunday-Thursday, June 21-June 25 (optional family-friendly dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m.), and 9:15 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 22-26, at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$50 for the morning session and \$45 for the evening session. Call 837-5243 or visit www.srvumc.org.

Classes

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

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.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING Learn how to earn an extraordinary income by starting your own busi-

ness 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@griesseltiffany-group.com.

COMMUNICATION ARTS NETWORK This organization meets at 11:45 a.m., the second Tuesday of every month, at Forli Ristorante, 3160 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The organization is for professionals interested in networking with others in the communications industry. Cost is \$20, including lunch. Visit www.commartnet.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.

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

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

DANVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB This club meets for lunch, a program and a business meeting on the third Thursday of every month,

September-May and on the first Thursday of June, at the clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa Ave., Danville. Dues are \$45 annually for active members and \$50 for associate members. Call 837-1165.

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

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.

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

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

GRANDMOTHERS CLUB Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. If interested, contact Janice Ridge at 837-8007.

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.

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

ROTARY CLUB OF SAN RAMON This club meets at 12:15 p.m., Thursdays, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. For information, call Bill Harlan at 932-8298.

TWIN VALLEY MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB This club meets from 6:30-9:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. Discussion is open to new and prospective moms during a Q&A forum that deals with Parenting Multiples; round table discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Membership is \$33. Refreshments are provided. Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.org.

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.

Concerts

'KIDS PLAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS' Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra presents "Kids Play the Darndest Things" at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth through 18 years old at the door. Chase Lim, a 14-year-old from Danville, will perform. Visit www.proartesymphony.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.

COMMUNITY CHORUS SPRING CONCERT A free concert will be held by the San Ramon Community Chorus at 7 p.m., Friday, June 5, at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

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.

2009 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAREER AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT The sixth 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.jobconnections.org.

AN ADOPTION FAIRE An adoption Faire sponsored by TVAR will be held from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. The faire will provide low cost spay/neuter certificates and dog adopters will receive three free private classes with a professional dog trainer, leash, collar and a bed. Cat adopters will receive a free goodie bag, toys and a blanket. Free hot dogs and drinks will be served from 1-2 p.m. Visit www.tvvar.org.

AVIATORS IN EARLY HOLLYWOOD Experience rare images and footage of classic motion picture aviators from 7-8:30 p.m., Saturday, June 6, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$10. Call 973-3200 or visit www.sanramonrecguide.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 Alamo Women's Club will host a garage sale in the parking lot and clubhouse from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Vendors are needed. Cost per space is \$35+ depending on location. Proceeds benefit Contra Costa charities. Call Anita at 837-1242.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIR The fair is here and is open from noon-11 p.m., Thursday-Friday and 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 28-31, at 1201 W. 10th St., Antioch. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$5 for seniors and children 6-12; children under 5 are free. Parking is \$5. Visit www.contra-costafair.com.

DANVILLE FINE ARTS FAIRE Come out and stroll beautiful tree-lined Hartz Avenue while enjoying one-of-a-kind fine art pieces from 200 talented artisans from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, June 20-21, in downtown Danville. Admission is free. Call 837-4400.

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.

FERRARI CAR SHOW Motor down to the Danville Livery where 30 Ferraris will be on display from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, June 7, at the Paddock. There will be a fashion show, detail demonstration, music, and a wine and food sampling tour (for \$10). Call 838-2488 or visit www.danvillelivery.com.

FREE E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT Don't know what to do with that old computer, monitor, or TV? Drop them off at a free E-Waste Collection Event 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.

GOODGUYS 16TH ANNUAL SUMMER GET-TOGETHER The summer's hottest car show featuring over 2,500 American powered hot rods, customs, classics and more will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Admission is \$15 for adults; \$6 for children ages 7-12. Visit www.good-guys.com.

SECOND ANNUAL WOOFSTOCK Contra Costa County Kennel Club and Skyline Dog Fanciers present the second annual Woofstock AKC Dog Show June 4-7 at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. There are over 7,000 entries of more than 100 breeds. Admission is free. Visit www.skylinedogfan.org or www.ccckennelclub.org.

WALKING TOURS OF DANVILLE Karen Stepper will host walking tours of historic downtown Danville at 6:15 p.m., every third Friday of every month, meeting at Village Theater, 233 Front St. Patty Dobbins will host walking tours starting at 10 a.m., on the second Saturday of every month, meeting at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Tours are from April through October. Cost is \$3 per person. Call 837-3750.

Fundraisers

'SALUTE TO BLUE' This will be a community event for all ages to enjoy music, food, virtual games, auction and wine tasting from 3-7 p.m., Sunday, May 31, in downtown Danville. Wristbands for access to wine tasting are \$35 per person or \$60 per couple and can be purchased at www.etickecentral.com or the day of the event. Proceeds will benefit Sgt. Ervin Romans' family.

40 IN 40 WINE FOR A CAUSE Enjoy a great evening of tasting unique home-grown Contra Costa wines from 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, June 5 in Alamo. Tickets are \$15. There will be door prizes, a drawing and more. Proceeds benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in support of Sean Mullen, who is completing 40 endurance events in his 40th year. For location information, call 831-8731 or e-mail IrisStone@aol.com. Alamo.

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.

HATS OFF AMERICA RUN AND WALK The 15th annual 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.

RACE TO ERACE WORLD POVERTY San Ramon Valley High School Leadership class will host Race to eRace World Poverty 5K race starting at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 30, beginning at the high school's football field. Cost is \$25. Proceeds benefit the Millennium Promise. Visit www.racetoerace.com.

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.

Health

QUIT FOR THE LAST TIME This class will give you self-care tips to help you quit smoking for the last time from 7-8 p.m., Thursday, June 4, at Sports Basement, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 826-3858.

STROKE AND OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING Life Line Screening will host screenings with appointments starting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Cost is \$139, including five screenings which take 60-90 minutes to complete. To schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

Kids and Teens

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY Danville Library will host numerous children's programs including "The River Otter Circus" with Swazzle Puppets at 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 16; "Hard Day's Knight" at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 18; cowboy storyteller Lariat Larry at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18; and Timothy

James, a comedy magician, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT Blackhawk Plaza will host free entertainment for children from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 30 featuring balloon twisting and clowning around. Visit www.shop-blackhawkplaza.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER American Cancer Society and San Ramon Regional Medical Center are sponsoring the Look Good... Feel Better program from 6-8 p.m., Mondays, June 8, Sept. 14 and Dec. 14, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, West Day Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. A staff of cosmetologists will work with patients to address the personal changes they are experiencing. These workshops are free, but reservations are required; call (800) 227-2345.

MANAGING MENOPAUSE DURING AND AFTER CANCER TREATMENT Learn what you can do to manage menopause and improve quality of life during and after cancer treatment with Sandra Altman, MD, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This workshop is free for cancer patients and their support. Call 933-0107.

POWER OVER PAIN Come, listen and learn what you can do to receive better pain care for yourself and help to advocate for others from 7-8:15 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, at Oak Hill Park Community Center, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. This event is free. Visit www.painfoundation.org.

SOUL OF CAREGIVING This one-day workshop is for cancer caregivers who will learn creative techniques to reduce stress and overcome obstacles and will meet from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.


Literary Events

JOURNALING FOR CAREGIVERS Town of Danville presents "Journaling for Caregivers" by B. Lynn Goodwin from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room. Bring a pen and paper. Call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

SUMMER READING 2009 Contra Costa County Library's Summer Reading Program will be from June 8-Aug. 17. Children in grades 2-5 will "Be Creative" for fun treats and children in grades 6-12 will express themselves for exciting prizes. Readers 18 and up are invited to "Master the Art of Reading" too. For information, call 837-4889 or visit www.ccclib.org.


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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.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED Education 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.

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

On Stage

'HELLO, DOLLY!' Diablo Theatre Company (formerly Diablo Light Opera Company) presents "Hello, Dolly!" at 8 p.m., June 5-6, 12-13, 18-20 and 25-27 and at 2 p.m., June 14, 21, 27-28, at the Leshner

Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$29-\$41. Call 943-7469.

Political Notes

BLACKHAWK REPUBLICAN WOMEN COCKTAIL MEETING "Security of Global Trade on the High Seas" will be addressed by Earl Agron, V.P. of Security, at its monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$25, including hors d'oeuvres. Reservations are due by noon, June 8. Call 820-6452.

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.

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 LIVWELL 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.

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.

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.

ADULT SOFTBALL Adult Softball plays pickup softball at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round. New members welcome. Call Bob Randall at 855-4646 for more information.

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>.

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>.

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.

BLUE STAR MOMS CHAPTER 101 Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 meets at 6:30 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 838-4228 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer or are a breast cancer survivor, join this group from 6:30-8:30 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Call 831-2475.

HOSPICE OF THE EAST BAY SUPPORT GROUPS Hospice of the East Bay will host Adults Who Have Lost a Parent from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, June 18-Aug. 6 at the Pleasant Hill location, 3470 Buskirk Ave. Groups and classes require pre-registration; call 887-5681.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP Men who have prostate cancer and their family members are invited to participate in a free monthly Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group that meets from 7:30-9 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. Call (800) 284-2878.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY This group meets at 7 p.m., the second Monday of every month (except

August), at John Muir Medical Center, at either the Walnut Creek Campus, Ball Auditorium or the Concord Campus, Concord Room (locations alternate every other month). The group hosts guest speakers and provides coping groups for stroke survivors with and without aphasia or caregivers of stroke survivors. Call 376-6218.

Volunteering

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

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

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF DIABLO VALLEY This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL The Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council needs volunteer speakers for the community education program. Volunteers must complete a mandatory 24-hour speaker's training course. For information, call 946-9961.

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

FRIENDS OF DISCOVERY The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call the store at 820-1988.

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living (RCJL) in Danville provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care in a community our residents call home. Volunteers play a key role at RCJL and opportunities are available for students and adults. For information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

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PORSCHE 1987 911 TARGA - \$24,999

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VOLVO 1997 960
VOLVO 960, 1997, fair condition, \$2700 OBO. driver seat stuck/needs tall, long-legged driver. call 925 337 2320.

210 Garage/Estate Sales

PA: Citywide Yard Sale 6/6, 8-1
Join the Palo Alto Citywide Yard Sale! Addresses and maps will be listed in the June 5 Palo Alto Weekly. Brought to you by Palo Alto Zero Waste Program, 650/496-5910. www.zerowastepaloalto.org/yardsale

Pleasanton, 3828 Stone Pointe Way, May 30 & 31, 8 am-2 pm
MOVING SALE! Small appl., toys, BBQ, glassware, suitcases, clothes, dining table&chairs, hutch, comp.monitor, ski jackets, sports equip., lg. hand truck - too much to list.

Pleasanton, 4532 Harper Ct, CA
Pleasanton, 4633 Ross Gate Way, May 30 & 31 9:00-4:00

Pleasanton, 5532 San Juan Way, May 30 8-12
Garage Sale
May 30th 8am-12pm
5532 San Juan Way, Pleasanton
Refrig, micro, kitchen table, kids clothes, toys, and more.

Pleasanton, 7541 Trotter Way, May 31st - 9am to 3pm
Downsizing sale w/lots of gorgeous items. Lenox, rare porcelain dolls, MK Cosmetics, beautiful furnishings, Crasclil bedding, wall hangings, sngl leather sofa seat, desk, hi-end office chair, glass sofa table & more. NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE. Thank you.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Royal Doulton figurine - \$45

220 Computers/ Electronics

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245 Miscellaneous

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TAKE US ALONG



Sailing with the Weekly: Lara and Fred George try to take a picture with the Weekly while sailing in the Sea of Cortez in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. They provided entertainment not only for themselves but also for those on board the boat, who now know all about Danville.

PET OF THE WEEK

**Meet
Sasha,**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

a 13-month-old, spayed female Pit Bull mix who loves to play ball. Sasha is friendly and very smart. She knows basic obedience commands including sit, down, come, and stay. Her previous owner was unable to take her along when they moved to a new rental home and giving her up was a difficult decision. Sasha enjoys going for walks and she LOVES treats. Sasha thoroughly enjoys the time she spends with TVAR volunteers who take her to the animal shelter's grassy play area for lots of fun in the sun. Visit Sasha (pet #85295) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. See www.tvvar.org for additional pets available for adoption from Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

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Danville Weekly

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ARACONTENT

Weekend home upgrades: fast, affordable fix-ups

With today's falling home prices, one family's well-worn dwelling can quickly become another's dream "starter" home. Interest rates are at historic lows, meaning buyers can get more house than they could a year ago for the same monthly mortgage payment, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

But affording a new home is one thing; affording to remodel it is another. Here are some cost-efficient upgrades that are easy enough to accomplish in a single weekend.

Start at the front door

Whether you're fixing up a newly purchased home or upgrading your current home to attract a buyer, nothing creates a better first impression than a new front entry door. Installing a new entryway door increases the perceived value of a home by up to \$24,000, according to a national valuation study conducted by an independent research organization.

Beyond adding curb appeal to your home, installing an energy-efficient door is an important consideration, if you're fixing up an older home. Houses built before 1939 use about 50 percent more energy per square foot than those built after 2000, according to a Time magazine report. The main culprit is tiny cracks and gaps that can expand over time and let in more outside air.

One way to get both beauty and energy efficiency is to choose one of the new doors offered by many collections. They often include new styles perfect for homes with popular architectural designs including Craftsman, bungalow, arts and crafts, mission and cottage motifs, and offer the high style, rich look and warmth of Mahogany hardwood, but at a value price compared with premium wood doors. Many doors are constructed of durable fiberglass, are Energy Star qualified, provide five times the insulation of a wood door and will not rot, split, crack or rot like wood, or rust, dent or ding like steel. Doors are now available that create tight seals to stabilize interior temperature and help decrease a home's energy costs.

—*Courtesy of ARACONTENT*

Set the stage with lighting

Upgrading the interior lighting can also make a big difference in your home. Designers often use "layered" lighting—a combination of ambient, task and accent lighting—to create a quality of light that not only looks and feels better, but is also better-suited to activities that can take place in any given room.

While you may not be in a position to install an entirely new lighting system in your home, there is a simple and affordable upgrade within easy reach. Light dimmers are available for as little as a few dollars at local home centers and hardware stores and can be installed by any do-it-yourselfer in minutes. (Just remember to turn off the circuit breaker before starting.)

According to the Department of Energy, artificial lighting consumes almost 15 percent of a household's electricity use. Dimming an incandescent bulb by just 15 percent reduces energy use by 15 percent and doubles the life of the bulb. The more you dim the light, the more energy you save.

Make a splash with color

Adding a new coat of paint is another easy, inexpensive upgrade. Depending on the shade you select, your room can be dramatically different or simply refreshed.

The paint you choose can also keep your home looking fresher over time. Some interior paints are perfect for high-traffic hallways, bathrooms, kids' rooms and anywhere long-wearing durability, antimicrobial properties and stain resistance is a must. It's tough enough to withstand repeated cleanings without visible wear, no matter what shade is selected.

As you add color, add a splash of sustainability, too. A low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) and low odor paint such as can help ensure better indoor air quality, and it's manufactured using sustainable processes.

—*Courtesy of ARACONTENT*

Make this the year to end garage grime once and for all

Now that the weather is warm, people are realizing that they can't avoid it anymore: It's time to clean the garage. There are a number of simple steps you can take to clean and organize your garage so that when your neighbors do walk by, they'll be amazed at the transformation.

Colorful, but still clean

Stroll by a dozen open garages and you'll likely see one common thread. All the garages are painted white or are still natural. There's no rule against painting the walls of your garage something other than white. But, choosing paint for your garage is more than color. Garage paint has to be strong enough to withstand grime, water and general dirt.

Consider applying a paint that is specifically designed for durability. Now there is a porcelain paint that is actually infused with bonded ceramic beads that create an impenetrable film that doesn't allow dirt and stains to set in. So, if you're cleaning your lawn mower and happen to splash grassy, muddy water on the wall, all you have to do is wipe it off with a wet rag. The paint won't become discolored or chip off. It's even strong enough to handle scrubbing with a sponge.

Power wash and kitty clean

Once you have the walls sealed and painted, you can now power wash the concrete floor without concern about damaging exposed drywall. Many large home and hardware stores will rent out power washers by the hour or day. Power washing is relatively easy and you'll be amazed at how effective it is at removing dirt and paint splatter from your garage floor.

Once the floor is clean, break out the kitty litter. That's right; kitty litter is an excellent absorbent and can remove those hard-to-clean oil stains. Simply spread the kitty litter on the stain and use a heavy object, such as a brick, to work the kitty litter into the stain. Once it's worked in, let

it sit for a few hours before sweeping up. After you're all swept up, finish by taking a stiff-bristled brush and some soapy water to clean any remaining residue.

Waterproofed and weatherized

Notoriously, the garage is a receptacle for dirt, mud and water. Dirt and water from car tires, lawn mowers and garden tools all seem to meld into one big mess that defies cleaning. Not only does this mess make the garage look bad, these elements can have a very detrimental effect on your garage floor. One way to combat the wear and tear is to consider waterproofing the concrete with a protective coating.

Many companies offer simple do-it-yourself coatings kits to protect concrete against gasoline, motor oil and hot tires. It also creates a glossy, showroom-like finish that hides imperfections like cracks or unsightly stains and easily cleans up with soap and water. Available in eight colors, it includes optional decorative flakes to give that previously boring garage floor just the right finishing touch. One easy-to-apply kit can cover up to 250 square feet and is water-based with virtually no odor.

Storage, not shelving

There are dozens of industrial grade and strength garage storage cabinets that will help hide all of the small items that you store in your garage behind magnetic, closable doors. Even if you still can't seem to organize the items inside the cabinets, at least they won't be visible, and it will provide a much cleaner appearance to your garage.

Once you've cleaned and sealed the floor, painted the walls and housed all your miscellaneous tools and supplies in storage cabinets, you're ready for the fun part; relaxing. Plus, the fact that these simple solutions provide lasting durability means that next year, you won't have to do this again.

—*Courtesy of ARACONTENT*

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2009

Alamo

1015 Via Del Gato J. & C. Velasquez to E. Beltran for \$1,425,000

Danville

128 Blackstone Drive Washington Mutual Bank to F. & M. Garcia for \$630,000

3 Brightwood Way Homburger Trust to T. & H. Clark for \$1,450,000

461 Evergreen Court Auroa Loan Services to D. Jacob for \$595,000

300 Kingswood Lane Meeks Trust to C. & M. Scott for \$1,900,000

1486 Menton Street Anderson Trust to T. & S. Pullano for \$892,500

127 Shadwell Drive Dalton Trust to K. Sypniewski for \$1,325,000

1759 St. Norbert Drive Hickey Trust to B. & S. Berschauer for \$825,000

Walnut Creek

1544 3rd Avenue C. Castillo to Satellite Housing for \$895,000

3617 Citrus Avenue Countrywide Bank to M. Foster for \$640,000

858 Leroy Lane C. & S. Long to N. Amro for \$722,000

1733 South Villa Way A. Lubarov to M. King for \$297,500

3206 Terra Granada Drive #2B Rice Trust to Morgan Trust for \$565,000

3288 Terra Granada Drive #3C Macvean Trust to Wilbur Trust for \$475,000

2591 Walnut Boulevard Schmidt Trust to W. Nichols for \$510,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

4 BEDROOMS

431 Corte Dorado \$1,249,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410

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

5 BEDROOMS

246 Greenbrook Drive \$999,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410

To list your open home on this page please contact

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X5000



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OPEN SUN 1-4



241 Aptos Place, Danville
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Welcome to your Private Sanctuary! This 4BR/3BA 2,422 sq.ft. updated home with 3 car garage on a 9,976 sq.ft. lot is located on a popular Shadow Hills double court! This sunny & bright home includes dual panes, retextured ceilings, hardwood floors, new interior and exterior doors, new garage doors, updated baths & kitchen with white cabinets, granite slab, recessed lighting, professionally landscaped and hardscaped front & back and so much more! Don't miss this great family home!

OPEN SUN 1-4



431 Corte Dorado, Danville
Offered at \$1,249,000

4BR/3BA 2,608 sq. ft. total remodel with 3 car garage on a huge 13,800 sq. ft. tropical paradise backing to open space. This "Top of Court Shadow Hills views all around" location comes up once in a blue moon! Don't miss this showcase home with over \$400K in upgrades including covered outdoor living, dining & kitchen with built-in BBQ, fridge & TV. Pebbletech pool & spa with flagstone waterfalls, views of the hills and cows to the back, and Las Trampas out the front. Updates abound with custom built-ins and hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen with 8 ft island, granite slab, and butlers' buffet!

OPEN SUN 1-4



246 Greenbrook Drive, Danville
Offered at \$999,000

Fabulous remodel with 5BR/BA 3,100 sq.ft. on a private 9,130 sq.ft. lot has been beautifully remodeled to include a bonus game room, media room complete with projection screen and equipment, walk to Greenbrook Pool, K-8 schools and Iron Horse Trail. Updated gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets, granite, stainless appliances, and updated baths. Huge master suite with to-die-for walk in closet with custom built-ins. Outdoor pavilion offers peace and tranquility for entertaining: ceiling fan, tons of storage, a hobby room and Sundance jacuzzi.



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