

Danville Weekly

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The impact of Interact: High school service club helps teenagers use talents to do good PAGE 17

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Vol. V, Number 9 · June 26, 2009

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

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SGT. DOYLE RETURNS TO BERLIN



Councilman celebrates 60th
anniversary of the Berlin Airlift

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Streetwise

ASKED AT ALAMO PLAZA

What's your favorite park to visit in California?



Mt. Diablo State Park. I love the vistas on a clear day, and our grandchildren love to go play at Rock City where the Miwok Indians used to grind their acorns. It's also nice and close. My husband rides his bike up there all the time.

Marilee Tinker
retired Baldwin Elementary School teacher

We go to Mount Shasta every summer and enjoy the lake and go boating. We hang out with family, and we have all hiked into the Lake Shasta caverns. It's gorgeous up there!

Kristen Barker
Alamo Realtor



Point Bonita in Marin County, out past the Golden Gate Bridge. It's the best views of the ocean and the city at the same time. Along the way, it's one of the nicest drives anywhere. I like exploring the abandoned military encampments along the cliffs. I just go for the day, but it would be nice to camp out there sometime.

Mike Sallstrom
UC Santa Barbara freshman

My favorite is Yosemite. I like to visit there every season and have probably gone there at least once a year since I can remember. In the summer we like to go rafting from Curry Village. My brother and I climbed Half Dome from the backside up the cable when I was 13. I like the beauty and the quiet there.

Kathy Karp
Sycamore Valley Elementary School
resource para-educator



I like Mono Lake State Park. Driving down the backside of the Sierra is an awe inspiring and breathtaking experience, especially when going over Tioga Pass. The sheer number of different types of birds that migrate through there is mind boggling, and the tufas are a strange phenomenon and quite a sight. The visitor's center is one of the best I've seen.

Kevin DeLano
UC Davis sophomore

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Mike Doyle, a Danville council member and former mayor, recalls being stationed in Germany during the 1948-49 Berlin Airlift, when food and coal were flown into the city while the Russians blockaded the roads and rails. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli.

Vol. V, Number 9

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

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TownSquare Forum



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“She was obviously sick, lethargic and shaking.”

Renee Morgan, whose dog Saydy was found to be suffering from eating a marijuana brownie. See story, PAGE 8.

NEWS DIGEST

Mayor's Morning is July 10 at Café Meyers

The Mayor's Morning next month will be held Friday, July 10, rather than the first Friday of the month due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Mayor Newell Arnerich will hold the free get-together with interested residents at 7:30 a.m. at Café Meyers at Tassajara Crossing, near Safeway across from Blackhawk Plaza. He is holding the monthly gatherings at different locations throughout town to make it convenient for residents who live in different parts of Danville. Everyone is welcome to attend, hear what's new, and voice concerns to town officials.

Molly's Pup-Purr-ee collecting for troops

The Blue Star Moms will be at Molly's Pup-Purr-ee, 425 Hartz Ave., Danville, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, to collect donations for care packages to be sent to the troops. The Danville Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade will take place on Hartz Avenue that same morning, starting at 9 a.m.

The list of needed items is available at the pet store and at www.BlueStarMoms.org. Monetary donations are always appreciated to help with postage as rates have increased significantly. The shop will also have postcards available so that people can write a note of thanks to men and women in uniform.

American Red Cross swapping gasoline for blood

Donating blood only takes about an hour and can help save up to three lives. And if that's not reason enough, in July donating blood could also fill up your gas tank.

Next month, blood donors with the American Red Cross are eligible to enter one of four weekly drawings for a \$100 gas card. In addition to the gas cards drawings, blood donors from July 1 through July 4 will receive a coupon for a free pint of Baskin-Robbins ice cream.

Blood supplies can dwindle during the summer months, when regular donors are away on vacation or are preoccupied with other summertime activities. At the same time, the need for blood can rise as increased roadway and travel-related injuries can drain supplies.

All Red Cross blood donor centers will be open July 4, including in Pleasant Hill at 140 Gregory Lane and in Pleasanton at 5556-B Springdale Ave. To schedule an appointment, call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or visit online at HelpSaveALife.org.

Farmers market open July 3, not July 4

Due to the annual Fourth of July Parade and other local activities, the Saturday Danville Farmers Market will be open Friday, July 3, instead of Saturday, July 4. It will be held 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the same locations, the town parking lot behind the Museum of the San Ramon Valley on Railroad Avenue at Prospect.

“There will be great fun, live music and the best produce available,” said market manager Max Timms. More than two dozen California farmers and other food producers are expected to be selling their goods in the market on July 3, plus there will be a patriotic flag giveaway.

Looking for Comic Book Kids

The Town of Danville still has openings at a new camp called Comic Book Kids! Children ages 5 to 11 will design their own comic book and learn artistic techniques to enhance it. At the end of the camp, they will take home their original hardback comic book and poster.

The camp will meet from 1-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, from July 6-10, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St. Cost is \$165 for Danville residents, \$198 for non-residents. To register go to www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Visit Tao House without reservations

No reservations or tickets are needed to visit the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site of the playwright's Tao House on Saturdays this summer. Until Aug. 29, people can meet at the bus stop in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville to catch shuttle buses that leave at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

People still need to make reservations for the shuttle to the site in the west Danville hills from Wednesday to Friday. Call 838-0249 to schedule a tour.

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School District approves 2009-10 budget

Class sizes won't change this year

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Despite the ongoing fiscal uncertainty at the state level, members of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District on Tuesday gave their unanimous approval to a \$215.5 million budget that will keep class sizes stable for another year and maintain the jobs of more than 200 teachers faced with layoffs.

Board members met June 23 to discuss the spending plan which, even with cuts throughout a number of areas, will still outstrip projected revenues by slightly more than 8 percent.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Gary Black presented the budget to board members, explaining that with so few solid numbers coming from the state, any assumptions they make are little better than speculation. "There are many unanswered questions and many assumptions that we just won't know for months," he explained.

The most recent revision of the budget in Sacramento shows funding to SRVUSD reduced by \$17.9 million, a loss of roughly \$655 per pupil.

One-time federal dollars from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as well as the recent approval of Measure C will help offset some of the deficit in the spending plan but the district still will have to take \$5.5 million from its reserves in order to fund the budget.

This will leave just over \$13 million in
See **SCHOOL BUDGET** on Page 7

Blackhawk residents rebuff plan to sell parcels

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A recent proposal by Blackhawk Country Club to rezone two parcels of land from "Parks and Recreation" to "Residential" hit a roadblock when homeowners wouldn't OK the change.

In late spring, officials with the country club along with the Blackhawk Homeowner's Association Board put a ballot issue to residents asking for a change to the association's Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) to allow rezoning for parcels on Birchwood Place and Live Oak.

Frank Elliot, president of the board of directors for the Blackhawk Country Club, said the plan was to then sell the rezoned parcels to create three buildable lots.

"We worked with the HOA and put the proposal together and the ballot went out in March," he explained.

Several residents opposed the ballot initiative and complained about how the homeowners' board was handling the election. One resident, Luther Johnson, said mailers being sent out to homeowners held a biased viewpoint.

"The material was very misleading in the respect that it looked like it came from the HOA," Johnson stated. "Nowhere was it identified who

See **BLACKHAWK** on Page 6



Phil Hellsten

The self-described "cosmic surfer, artist, poet, lover," died unexpectedly Tuesday afternoon. He led people in creating an interactive painting last weekend at the Danville Fine Arts Faire.

Danville icon dies at 57

Local artist Phil Hellsten known as 'consummate networker'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Who is that tall man with the gray ponytail and the pleasant smile who's always walking around town? It was Phil Hellsten, artist and "Starman," whose daily routine included walking from his home on Danville Boulevard just north of the high school to Peet's Coffee on Railroad Avenue each morning.

Mr. Hellsten, 57, was found dead in his home early Tuesday afternoon, having apparently died in his sleep during his afternoon nap. An autopsy is being performed.

His business card read, "Cosmic surfer, artist, poet, lover." He had devised a dating system based on elementary astrology, and friends remember him as a matchmaker, both in people's personal and professional lives, "the consummate networker." Artistically he was known as a master of composition and always

ready to help his fellow artists with their shows.

Last weekend he was at the Danville Fine Arts Faire, creating a large-scale interactive mosaic "painting" that the public was able to contribute to. His recent art included portraits of famous people done in acrylics in gray squares to create the image, including a large St. Jude on the roof above the artist studios at 524 Hartz Ave.

He was born June 14, 1952, in Long Island, N.Y. He moved to California when he was 18, he told the Danville Weekly in a 2006 interview, and was offered a scholarship to play soccer at UC Berkeley. He said instead he took architecture classes at Diablo Valley College and showcased work in local galleries. He also lived in Santa Cruz for awhile.

But for many years he stuck to his routine in Dan-

See **HELLSTEN** on Page 7



COURTESY OF ARG

This rendering shows how the proposed Veterans Hall would look from the corner of Hartz Avenue and Prospect Avenue. The veterans would occupy the two stories at the front of the building, while seniors would have an entrance on Prospect.

Design for Vets Hall moves forward

By GEOFF GILLETTE

After 12 meetings stretching out over the first half of 2009, the Veterans Building Steering Committee has finalized its plans for a renovated Veterans Hall and started it on the path to approval by the town.

At their final meeting Monday, nine members of the committee discussed the latest iteration of the plan from architectural consultants ARG. The building, which has fluctuated between 12,000 and 14,000 square feet, will end up being 12,700 square feet; the front of the building will be dedicated to veterans groups, the rear to senior programs, and the center will be a community hall for either group or rented out to the public.

Committee members were complimentary of the final product, which added features including a rear entry for seniors to give them closer access to parking and another restroom in the senior rooms.

Committee sends plan on to Design Review Board

Despite the overall approval, both the committee and many of the 30 people in attendance had questions regarding the plan. One concern brought up by several people was the concept of a movable stage. Some felt a fixed stage in the community area would be best, while others suggested a "Murphy bed" approach that would have the stage fold down from the walls.

Mayor Newell Americh, an architect by profession, explained that they decided to go with a sectional, removable stage so they would have the flexibility to use it when it was needed and to store it at other times. He said having that flexibility will also allow the various groups to use a partial stage simultaneously if the community hall is subdivided.

Basement storage was another serious concern. Steve Mick suggested that the plan include either lockers or cages for each group's storage. "Good fences make good neighbors," he joked.

Veteran John Reese took Mick's suggestion one step further, saying that if there is any extra money after the bids come back they should use it to increase the storage area in the basement.

During the public comment section, committee members heard mostly positive comments but there were still issues that some residents feel hadn't been addressed. Resident Linda Stolow reiterated her concern that the Prospect Avenue portion of the building, which sports a lot of glass and metal, is too contemporary for the downtown.

Stolow reiterated her call for taking the seniors out of the mix and moving them to
See **VETS HALL** on Page 8

Teen honored for lifesaving CPR

By GEOFF GILLETTE

May 13 turned out to be anything but a normal day for 15-year-old Sara Broski of Alamo. The teenager, a sophomore at the College Preparatory School in Oakland, was riding BART into the Walnut Creek station when an announcement came over the loud speaker that the train would be delayed due to a medical emergency.

"What she did then made all the difference," said Pam Dodson, a pre-hospital care coordinator for Contra Costa County Health Services. "She looked to see what was going on and noticed a woman who appeared to be non-breathing and unconscious."

Having just completed her CPR certification a few weeks before, Broski sprang into action, doing chest compressions as she had been taught on the non-responsive woman. She continued to do the compressions until Emergency Medical Technicians arrived at the scene and took over. The EMTs used a defibrillator and shocked Beth Scroggs' heart back into a normal rhythm.

Dodson said the woman suffered sudden cardiac arrest, when the heart suddenly stops working. "Sudden death cardiac arrest kills more people than lung cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined," she said.

She added, "Taking action like Sara did is what saves lives. Lots of kids know CPR through school, lifeguarding or camp counseling, but it's not uncommon for people to just stand around. What we need is for people to step up."

Broski was honored at a recent unveiling of the HeartSafe Community Initiative, a program set up to encourage more cities to become better



PAM DODSON

Sara Broski (right) is reunited with Beth Scroggs when the Alamo teenager was honored for keeping the Clayton woman alive using CPR.

able to deal with cardiac emergencies.

John Broski said that he only learned of his daughter's heroic act after it was over. "When I got to the BART station to pick her up there were lots of fire and police vehicles. When I finally got there she stumbled out and just kind of collapsed in the car," he said.

He said that Sara was shaken up by the experience and was worried that Scroggs had not survived. "The instructor told her that he had done CPR six times and they all died so she went in there thinking the chances were not great."

They checked around and were able to learn that Scroggs had indeed survived and then were surprised when Sara was invited to the HeartSafe startup to be honored.

"I was very proud of her," Broski stated. "What she did a lot of people couldn't have done." ■

BLACKHAWK

Continued from Page 5

the author was. The question and answer information on the mailer favored the position that the community would benefit from this sale."

Johnson said he did not like the way there were few opposing viewpoints provided or much discussion at the homeowners' board meetings.

"It's my opinion that the country club was trying to slip this under the radar," he said.

Many of the residents had concerns about how approving the rezoning this time might affect future endeavors.

"If this succeeds are they going to view this as a revenue generator?" he asked. "They may say no, but there are no guarantees."

Another factor worrying opponents was what would happen to the land once it is sold. One thought was that grading the hilltops where homes would be built could increase the possibility of landslides. Another concern was that the parcels could be altered by the new owners.

"Once it's in the hands of the developers they (the parcels) can be brought back and subdivided. Once it's out of our hands, it's out of our control," said Johnson.

Elliot disagreed with that position.

"That is completely untrue," he said. "Contra Costa County would never let us do that."

Elliot said any use of the land would require an amendment to the general plan by the county, and he could not see any way that the Board of Supervisors would allow such a use in Blackhawk.

He added that the plan to sell the land was not driven by the economic downturn. "The thing we could not do is sell assets like this and use the proceeds for club op-

erations. Operationally, we are sound and everything is running fine."

Revenue generated by the sale of the land would have been used for capital improvement projects at the country club.

Ballots were sent out in late March with an April 28 collection date. A total of 1,900 potential ballots could be cast, so in order to get approval of the amendment, 997 residents had to vote in favor. However, by the end date, they had barely received 1,000 votes, so another round of ballots was sent out and the date was extended to May 22.

The ballots were counted at the May 26 meeting of the Homeowner's Association Board of Directors. Of the roughly 1,400 votes cast, 911 were in favor of the zoning change.

Resident Sue Talia said she believed the ballot issue failed because opponents started getting the word out. "The first mailing was about 70 percent Yes and the second was about 51 percent. It clearly looks like the election materials were misleading and once people had both sides of the story the voting went differently."

Now, the question is what happens next. While the country club has not stated any intent to put the issue to the residents again, opponents are certain that the country club will attempt to get the zoning change passed again.

Talia said she intends to attend the HOA Board of Directors meetings to make sure she is aware of any such event. "I'll be at the meetings and make sure they follow correct election procedures," she said.

She added, "They had an election and it was set up to favor the club, and even so it lost. So why do we have to keep monitoring elections? They lost, why do they get another bite at the apple?" ■



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Iron turns Danville creek a suspicious color

Officials investigating possible dumping of oxide substance

By Geoff Gillette

Hazardous waste crews from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District were dispatched early last week after a call of a strange discoloration in the waters of the San Ramon Creek, south of Greenbrook Drive along the Iron Horse Trail.

District Information Officer Kim French said a jogger on the trail noticed the water had a strange

red-orangish coloring and notified officials. French said that two engines, a hazardous materials truck and three chief officers converged on the scene.

The hazardous waste crew, along with officials from the Contra Costa Environmental Health Department and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife began testing the water to determine what was causing the phenomenon.

French said officials found the agent in the water to be some sort of iron or oxide. It was determined that the levels did not pose a danger to humans or animals.

Both the county environmental health department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife are continuing to investigate how the substance got into the water, saying that possibly someone dumped it into the creek. ■



STEPHEN SANFILIPPO

Phil Hellsten poses June 19 in his art installation on the roof of 524 Hartz Ave., the former home of the Pioneer Art Gallery, which has artist studios on the second floor.

HELLSTEN

Continued from Page 5

ville: walking each morning to Peet's, then to the library to do his e-mailing, then home for lunch and a nap. He was living with his sister Phyllis, a grown niece and her two daughters in the condo owned by his mother, who passed away in October 2007. They had sold the home and were to vacate it July 1. Friends said he was about to

start a new life with his share of the proceeds.

Late each afternoon Mr. Hellsten would meet friends at the artist studios on Hartz Avenue, go to Faz restaurant and then walk up Hartz Avenue to another venue to socialize.

A photo is posted at Peet's "In Memory of Philip (Starman) Hellsten." Services are being planned at Peace Lutheran Church. For up-to-date information, go to DanvilleWeekly.com. ■

SCHOOL BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

reserves for the coming year. Black said of that amount, \$6.6 million is the state mandated 3 percent reserve, \$2.1 million is listed as the board's reserve, and the rest is set aside for several different funds.

Under the budget, class sizes for K-3 and ninth-grade math will stay at the 20:1 for the coming school year but are expected to increase to 24:1 in the following year. Of the 240 teachers who received layoff notices in March, all but three part-time positions have been rescinded.

Employee salaries and benefits account for over 80 percent of the school district budget. The newly approved budget carries a \$1 million increase for step and column raises for teachers. Conversely, teachers will be asked to take two unpaid furlough days in 2009-10, three in 2010-11 and four in 2011-12. Those concessions have yet to be approved by the California Teachers Union.

The situation remains fluid at the state level, which could be good or bad for the district. Black pointed to a current plan in Sacramento to cut down the \$24 billion state deficit by nearly \$20 billion. He added that there is word that there could be Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLA) of 0.9 percent in 2009-10 and 2.4 percent in 2010-11 that could also result in some additional revenues to help offset the continuing drain on local coffers.

Black said while they are hopeful of seeing the Cost Of Living Adjustments, they are creating their plans based on a flat revenue stream. "That's really our best case scenario at this point, hoping to survive on a flat basis." ■

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Marijuana brownie almost does in dog

Doctors says more pets being found ingesting drugs

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Living near one of the bike paths and trails that crisscross Danville proved to be more curse than blessing for one family, as drugs believed to have been thrown into their yard sent a beloved pet to the hospital.

Renee Morgan said she noticed something wrong with her 2-year-old poodle, Saydy, on Wednesday night after she returned home from work.

"She was acting fairly strange," she said. Minutes later, Morgan's daughter also noticed the dog's behavior.

"I took a closer look," Morgan said. "She was obviously sick, lethargic and shaking."

The family took the pet to the Concord Veterinary Emergency Center, where she was admitted. Doctors were unable to determine initially what was causing the odd behavior and the dog continued to deteriorate, heart rate and blood pressure lowering.

The dog was kept overnight and blood work was done. Morgan said she was shocked the next day to hear what doctors found.

"It came back positive for marijuana," she stated. The doctor said it was probably in brownies since Saydy also showed signs of having ingested chocolate.

Morgan added that the doctor told her such cases are not uncommon, especially in areas near the trail system where people sometimes throw items into people's yards or feed them directly to friendly dogs.

Emergency Center veterinarian Dr. Daryl Schawal said that cases of animals being given drugs or

accidentally consuming drugs run in spurts but when the cycle is on the upswing they could see as many as 10 cases in a week.

"Since the economy has turned down, we've been seeing more of it," Schawal said. He added that marijuana is becoming more and more potent so is becoming more dangerous to dogs. Also when humans give drugs to an animal, the pet's smaller body weight means it will feel the effects to a greater degree.

In many cases, the drugs may have been baked into brownies before being given to the pet, or sometimes medical marijuana that comes in a pseudo-candy bar has been eaten mistakenly by dogs.

Common symptoms of a dog that has been dosed with marijuana are a very low heart rate, low blood pressure, lethargy, confusion and involuntary urination. Schawal said in one instance, a small breed dog's vital signs sank to the point where it was necessary to put it on a ventilator to keep it breathing.

Schawal said cases of this sort are generally not malicious in nature. He said his experience has been situations where drugs are dumped to avoid discovery, or people holding a party may attempt to get the pet intoxicated.

Danville police said they have received no reports of dogs being poisoned or given drugs. They said any person who has experienced such an event should file a report.

The Morgans received good news and bad news Thursday. The good news was that Saydy would survive; the bad news was that the bill for the pet's treatment would be \$1,500. ■



COURTESY OF ARG

This scene shows the seniors entrance on Prospect Avenue. A long window lined promenade is expected to provide plenty of light as residents enter either the senior area or the community hall.

VETS HALL

Continued from Page 5

the Danville Community Center and holding the center's programs at the Vets Hall instead. "I've been saying that for 12 years," she stated. "I'll say it for 12 more."

On a practical note, she asked where the various groups and programs would be housed while the construction on the building is taking place.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo explained that they initially considered renting space to house the programs but will instead break up the programs and house them in different town facilities.

Taking down the redwood trees from around the building and replacing them also raised the ire of

some residents.

"We're disappointed that the redwood trees are gone," said Claude Benedix. "We feel they're a significant asset to the Town and to the Veterans Hall and should have stayed."

Town historian Beverly Lane commended the architects on the work but said she felt that they were trying to do too much in a limited space. She also said she wanted to know if enough consideration was given to the historical nature of the building.

"We're already removing a large percentage of the building, so that face is important," she said. "Would this building be able to meet national register qualifications or because we're changing it so much are we foreclosing that opportunity?"

Other issues raised concerned the proximity of the building to the lot line along Prospect, as well as at the rear, and the effect it would have on foot traffic utilizing the corridor near Prospector Square.

Committee members said they would examine the issue and see if building heights could be used to mitigate the effect of having the building fill so much of the lot.

Americh joined the committee in doling out congratulations not only to the committee, residents and town staff but to ARG personnel for their work taking in several different viewpoints and trying to massage them all together.

"This is the first design project we've had where we didn't fire the design architect or wear them out to where they wanted to quit," he quipped.

Calabrigo said he was pleased with the turnout at the meetings and the comments they've received on the plans. "What I think you've been hearing this evening is that there continues to be a lot of feedback and a lot of opinions and a lot of caring about the project."

Calabrigo said that while Monday's meeting may have been the last for the committee, it is not the end for the Veterans Hall project.

"The committee's task may be winding down for the time being, but this is where the Design Review process picks up," he said. "The committee's finished the project just like a developer would, and now it goes through the town's approval process."

Americh expressed his confidence in the plan and how it would fare in the approval process.

"I think we hit a homerun in being able to integrate all the needs of the community and keep it downtown," he said. "We've invested a lot of money in keeping our downtown vital and this is going to be one of the integral parts."

If all goes according to plan, officials say they could be going out for bid on the project by December or January. ■



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DIABLO VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

It's sandal time but be sure to guard against infections

SaniManiPedi. It has a nice ring to it. But the company is more than a cute name—it's a mission to make sure that pedicures don't cause infections.

Suzann Cowing found out the hard way that pedicures can leave women with more than beautiful toes. When she went to a local nail salon in 2006 she apparently had a small cut, which led to an infection.

"I knew something was wrong," she recalled. "There was a redness and swelling that just didn't go away. And the nail got thick in certain places." The dermatologist told her she could take an oral medication for a year, but it might cause liver damage. Or she could apply an antifungal medication, which she did—for many months.

"Like anything, once you have something, you hear about 50 other people who have it," Suzann said. The horror stories included women who developed boils all over their legs from equipment that was not properly disinfected. She even found three deaths from staph infections.

Suzann, an attorney who retired from practice to raise her three children, began to contact health departments. Everyone agreed that the infections were a shame but no one was really worried. Because so many salons are individually owned, she said, it is hard to make sure that everybody is practicing good sanitation. "They have to have licenses and they can be fined, but the typical fine is \$20-\$25," she noted.

So she decided to take action. First, she developed a list of safety tips from her research. For instance, if a salon looks dirty, just leave, because it could be dangerously dirty. Never get a beauty treatment if you have broken skin. Also, don't shave your legs within 24 hours of any foot-spa treatment; this opens the pores and gives infection a point of entry. And be sure that pedicure baths have been thoroughly disinfected.

Next Suzann worked with a scientist to develop a 100 percent natural product that could be brought to salons and added to the pedicure bath. "I thought it would be good to bring my own products along, little packets that I can keep in the car or throw into my purse," she said.

A lot of companies develop cosmetics but she needed one to cultivate an antiseptic solution, she said, plus she wanted to use natural moisturizers, cleansing

oils and antibacterials. She finally began to work with a scientist, who soon sent her a sample. But it didn't pass the nose test.

"It didn't smell good," she explained. "Him being a man, he didn't quite get it." She finally convinced him that women getting pedicures want the luxury of scented solutions and would buy nothing that fell short. Once he understood this, he achieved the goal. Just reading the list of ingredients makes my feet cry out for them: JoJoba Oil, Sesame Oil, French Lavender Oil, Tea Tree Oil, Wild Thyme Oil, Origanum Vulgare Oil and Spanish Rosemary Oil.

Suzann also put together a tool kit for women to take with them to salons. "That's the gold standard for protecting yourself—bringing your own tools," she said. Any time someone is cutting you with a metal tool you want to make sure it's clean, she explained. "They are just like surgical tools." Her kits wrap the tools in black and tie them with a pink ribbon.

Now when Suzann walks into a salon with her special solution for the pedicure bath and her own tools, she is interested in the reaction of the employees. "If it never occurred to them, it is a red flag," she said. "Most places are very receptive." She noted that some salons even require clients to purchase tools.

Her five-pack box of solution sells for \$12.95 at SaniManiPedi.com. The pedicure kit is \$49.95, which includes professional grade stainless steel nail clipper, pusher and cuticle nipper, an orange stick, file, callus stone and two samples of her solution. The products are available at Dabble in Blackhawk.

Suzann has been getting good feedback.

"What a great idea! I knew I should be bringing my own tools to the salon but just never got it together. Your ManiPedi kit makes it so easy, and it's so cute too," wrote Meghan B. of Pacific Palisades. Others told about having sworn off pedicures after they or their friends contracted nasty infections. One woman said she gave the kits to her bridesmaids as thank-you presents, then they all got their nails done together.

Suzann says she was annoyed with herself that she didn't pay attention through the years when she heard about women getting infections along with their pedicures. Instead she had to learn the hard way. But now she's trying to make it easier for women to heed the warnings and treat themselves to this luxury.

"Pedicures are a relatively inexpensive way to pamper yourself," she said. But please, make sure all you get from the salon is beautiful feet.

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

24 leaders for San Ramon Valley

The 24 members of the 18th class of Leadership San Ramon Valley were honored June 4 in the culmination of a 10-month Leadership program designed to give a historical perspective and in-depth look at the issues facing the community.

They covered a variety of topics germane to the dynamics of the San Ramon Valley, such as education, the economy, local and state government, regional planning, community economics and cultural arts. More than a classroom situation, the program also assigns fieldwork, which brings the participants one-on-one with the activities and issues within the community.

The class of 2009 is concentrating on the HEROES Project, a public awareness campaign that provides greater recognition to those who make a difference in youths' lives.

Currently, Leadership is seeking applicants for its 2009-10 program, which will begin in September. Elaine Cortez Schroth at 355-2554, or e-mail lsvr@leadershipsvr.org for additional information. Applications are available at www.leadershipsvr.org. ■

Leadership graduates

Completing the Leadership San Ramon Valley program on June 4 will be:

- Natalie Alvarez, Director of Marketing & Membership, Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Dall Barley, Board Member, San Ramon Historic Foundation
- Elaine Betts, Owner, Go Far Consulting
- Gina Channell-Allen, Publisher, Danville Weekly
- Jim Coleman, Retired/Danville Sycamore Rotary
- Jim Crocker, VP, CFO, Aspire Investments/Danville Rotary
- Will Doerlich, Broker-Associate, Windermere East Bay Realty
- Jeff Fippin, Associate Engineer, ENGEO Inc.
- Raj Gumber, Senior Environmental Chemist, Dublin San Ramon Services District
- Lani Ha, Financial Services Supervisor, Town of Danville
- Karen Horton, Volunteer, San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs
- Mike Howl, President, MAH Development Inc.
- Gary Jones, Executive Pastor, New Life Church
- Steve Kay, Allied Financial Services/Danville Rotary
- Natalie Kurtz, Fire Inspector, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
- Donna Maxwell, Community Volunteer
- Linda Mc Colgan, General Manager, New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.
- Karen McHenry-Smith, City of San Ramon
- Mike Picard, Battalion Chief, Operations, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
- Jeri Stegman, Director of Behavior Health, Gracer Medical Group
- Julie Vargas, Senior Administrative Analyst, City of San Ramon
- Steve Wilcox, Partner, Financial Advisor, Summit Financial Group/Danville Sycamore Rotary
- Mark Williams, Police Department, Town of Danville
- Tim White, Senior Vice President, Heritage Bank of Commerce

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EDITORIAL

Farewell to Danville icon

It's with sadness that we say goodbye to a modern Danville icon, Phil "Starman" Hellsten. In the early days of the Danville Weekly, he walked into the offices to introduce himself and say, "Everyone told me to come in here and talk to you guys. They think I'm a story." Indeed Phil was many stories, an idea man who bombarded us with projects in the making and planned for the future.

Through our four years when we have asked people what they want to read about, many responded that they would like to know more about that tall guy with the ponytail and beard who was always walking around town.

Many people did know him, from business and restaurant owners to the tennis players who gather each weekend morning at the high school. The artists knew him as a fellow creative spirit of boundless energy, who was always helpful to others.

Our condolences to these artists who have lost a friend, to his family, and to Danville, which has lost a town character.

GUEST OPINION

BY LINDA STOLOW

New Vets Hall plans: What happened to "quaint"?

Articles on the Vets Hall renovation have omitted a significant change for downtown: the removal of all the trees on the property to be replaced with new landscaping. The decision to remove every tree from the property comes as no surprise. The fact that they are mostly redwood trees, a species just recently been removed from the town's protected list, and just as much part of our downtown as the building itself, makes one wonder if we are trying to preserve anything of our past. Certainly the two trees closest to the corner would not be affected by construction since the front portion of the building's exterior is going to be maintained though there will be some changes.

The other consideration was the town's ability to ignore its own municipal code. The Danville Municipal Code pertaining to the Business District Area under setbacks states, "Front yard: 10-foot minimum from a public right of way. Side and rear yards: no minimum except on corner lots where there shall be a minimum 10-foot street side, side yard setback."

Part of the new section designated for the seniors totally ignores this and butts to the sidewalk. This section, a one-story building, will be extra tall due to high ceilings and will create a massive impact on Prospect Avenue, a street of little houses turned into retail shops. Prospector Square, a notable exception due to its size, is set back from the sidewalk allowing for lush landscaping to mitigate its impact. Additionally, Prospector Square has a delightful Victorian gingerbread style of great variety, unlike the slick glass facade that has been shown on the renderings of the Vets Hall that will be beside it. Do we need a contemporary building attached to our historical Vets Hall and built to the maximum that the lot will allow and then some? The total square footage will probably exceed the legal limits but the town will just can get a variance. After all it's for the good of the town—or is it?

Couldn't the architects be directed to get the exterior to coordinate better with the front section, which is being retained though two porches with

French doors will be added and the handicap ramp removed. Yes, the building is a little basic and can be dolled up with brighter paint, some adornments and landscape but to go whole hog modern in a town that prides itself on "quaint"? Or do we?

There are moments when I think I am the only individual who is standing up voicing discontent much like the person in the story "The Emperor's New Clothes" who tells him he is naked when everyone else tells him he looks well-dressed. To make sure that no one misinterprets my arguments and my goals, I fully subscribe to the fact that this is a Vets Building first and foremost. Seniors are second in this equation and have been all along. I recognize that redwood trees are not native to this area and can become nuisance trees but that doesn't make them an automatic target. With a huge increase in the senior population looming on the horizon and a town far behind on senior services compared to other communities, this senior center will be undersized before it is built. Other choices are available to us.

Let's not wait until Prospect Avenue is full of cars parked up and down the street with handicapped placards jockeying for position closest to the Senior Center door. Handicapped placards mean that they can park indefinitely unlike the time limits for seniors and shoppers in the Front Street lot. Seniors will arrive earlier than shoppers and will take the majority of that parking lot. So once more we will have another downtown parking problem.

To those who depend on the Danville Weekly for details of this renovation as well as its impact and significance to our downtown, there is simply not enough room in a newspaper to cover every aspect of it. To be made further aware of what is happening, you can attend the Vets Hall meetings themselves or the senior meetings. Check the town calendar for dates, times and places. When these plans come to Design Review and Planning Commissions and finally Town Council, please come out and voice your opinions. Everyone needs to have a say in this project. This is your town as much as mine. I'm just here trying to look out for my fellow seniors who, unlike the veterans, had minimum representation.

Linda Stolow owns a downtown business, the Small Fry Shoppe, and is active in Discover Danville, as well as senior issues.

Danville Weekly

Serving the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo and Danville

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LETTERS

No MAC for Alamo

Dear Editor:

A MAC is being presented to us in Alamo as the answer to all problems when it is another layer of government. We voted and won two-thirds against incorporation and do not want a MAC. This will NOT BE VOTED ON and will be settled in a few weeks at a meeting. Seven people will be picked by Supervisor Mary N. Piepho. We do not have a say in who is asked to perform this job.

Please call Supervisor Piepho's office, 820-8683, and tell her we do not want a MAC.

Thank you.

Mrs. S.C. Thompson
Alamo

Change coming despite Alamo No vote

Dear Editor:

It started in early 2005 when our supervisor drafted an Alamo MAC or Municipal Advisory Committee. Soon, however, incorporation efforts began and MAC plans went dormant. Incorporation efforts failed though; Alamo residents voted for no changes, no new "layer of government." Did opponents realize change was coming—with or without incorporation?

The county is not wild about providing services for the Alamo outback. They are ill equipped to do it and it is cumbersome to them.

By instituting a MAC, the county can excuse itself from countless Alamo committee meetings and interacting with disgruntled residents. Let the MAC do it. Let the MAC be the liaison and make it easy

on the county. The people get a straw court, the county has less work, and in the end, the supervisor does whatever he or she pleases. A MAC has no power except advisory and no funding except through the supervisor. The supervisor can accept or veto recommendations at will.

MAC rules dictate that the supervisor assumes sole responsibility for appointing a seven-member Alamo Board. Residents don't vote. Boards can terminate with the supervisor's tenure—so much for continuity.

An Alamo MAC is imminent. Our supervisor wants it and other supervisors generally support each other on jurisdictional issues. Alamo residents rejected controlling our fate by rejecting incorporation, now a MAC is the only venue left. We made our bed and must lie in it. Let's embrace it and make it as comfy as we can.

Change is coming.

Nancy Dommes
Alamo

Hats Off America looking for help

Dear Editor:

Hats Off America is in need of walkers for the 4th of July Parade in Danville to pass out our fliers so we can find people inclined to give so we can bring the Arroyave family closer to financial health after their ultimate sacrifice. Hats Off America seeks parity in compensation for the survivors of soldiers who are dying for our freedom every day with the amounts awarded to the families of the 9/11 victims.

If you can help us or direct us to someone that would like to show their support for Gold Star Families, we would be forever in debt. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

Sparky George
Danville

Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN

Burglary undercover operation results in arrest

Danville police say an undercover detail aimed at car burglaries resulted in the arrests of a man and woman from Alameda County.

Lt. Mark Williams said the detail was organized in response to a rise in car burglaries and thefts on the south end of Danville. From March to May, officers responded to 36 calls regarding car break-ins, with May showing the highest number with 17.

"We did some analysis," said Williams. "We were looking to see when and where these were happening as well as the M.O. (method of operation)."

Statistics indicated neighborhoods toward the south end of Danville were being struck. Crimes occurred in the early to mid week, so a burglary suppression detail of six officers was organized and hit the streets on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

Williams said that at 1:10 a.m. Wednesday officers spotted a Kia parked several feet off the curb on Castillo Court. When the officers approached to make contact, the vehicle started up, made a U-turn and headed south. The officers conducted a traffic stop and spoke to the driver, a 28-year-old male and his passenger, a 48-year-old female. Both were from Alameda County.

The driver was unable to provide any identification or a driver's license. After receiving permission from the female, officers searched the vehicle and turned up several items related to car burglaries. Items included "shaved" keys, used in the theft of older model Toyotas and Hondas, gloves, a drill, binoculars and a "ninja rock." The ninja rock is a piece of ceramic, usually off a spark plug, tied to a string, which is used to quietly break a car window.

Both individuals were taken into custody on charges of possession of burglary tools. The male was also charged with driving on a suspended license and probation violation. They were transported to the Martinez Detention Center. Police did not release the names of those involved as the investigation is ongoing.

Williams said he was pleased with the result of the suppression detail. "There's a good chance these folks are responsible for other burglaries we had in the past and we are confident that this arrest put a large dent into the car theft and burglary activity in this area."

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, June 14

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and El Pintado Rd. at 12:39 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Via Hermosa at 1:25 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and Turrini Dr. at 3:32 p.m.
- Defrauding innkeeper on Camino Ramon at 9:10 p.m.

Monday, June 15

- Auto burglary on Parkhaven Dr. at 8:25 a.m.
- Grand theft on Delta Way at 1:57 p.m.
- Fight disturbance, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 5:58 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Park Hill Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:09 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and southbound I-680 at 11:12 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16

- Battery on Diablo Rd. and northbound I-680 at 3:51 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on 400 block of Hartz Ave. at 5:18 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Thomas Way at 7:37 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Woodlyn Rd. at 7:42 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17

- False ID to purchase alcohol on

Boone Ct. at 12:14 a.m.

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Castille Ct. and Franciscan Dr. at 1:09 a.m.
- Vandalism on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 1:39 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Railroad Ave. at 2:54 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 5:39 p.m.
- Vandalism on Cloverbrook Dr. at 1:48 p.m. and 7:04 p.m.

Thursday, June 18

- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 8:58 a.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Heritage Park Dr. at 11:15 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Del Amigo Rd. and Verona Ave. at 4:13 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Cerro Blvd. and northbound I-680 off ramp at 5:12 p.m.

Friday, June 19

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Woodside Dr. at 2:03 a.m.
- Petty theft on Front St. at 2:31 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on southbound I-680 on ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:48 p.m.

Saturday, June 20

- Accident, major injuries, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Matadera Way at 1:47 p.m.
- Vandalism on Old Orchard Dr. and Tweed Dr. at 12:39 p.m. and 1:25 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Church St. and Railroad Ave. at 10:31 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Lawrence 'Larry' Neil Hill

Lawrence "Larry" Neil Hill, a resident of Alamo, died June 18 at the age of 60.

He was born Sept. 10, 1948, and grew up in Rolling Hills. He was a graduate of Stanford University in political science and Union Theological Seminary. For the past 30 years, he worked in international corporate real estate for Bank of America, Barclays Global Investors, Jones Lang LaSalle and AsiaPac Int'l. His wife and two sons will miss his kindness, love and daily stories as well as his devoted guidance and appreciation of music.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

Karl G. Mangold, M.D.

Karl G. Mangold, M.D., a resident of Diablo, died June 3 at the age of 71 after a six-year battle with bone marrow cancer and a 40-year battle with a rare neurodegenerative disease.

He was born in White Plains, N.Y., the eldest son of immigrants from Bavaria, Germany. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame (1959), where he met his future wife, and Cornell University Medical College (1964). He completed an internal medicine internship (1965) at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, and an emergency medical fellowship at Harvard-Massachusetts General Hospital (1969) in Boston. In later years, he received an MBA from Pepperdine University (1989), and a Master's of Arts in management from JFK University (1991) in Walnut Creek.

He was a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to the medical facility at the Coast Guard training base in Alameda. He was trained as a flight surgeon at the Army aviation school, Fort Rucker, Ala., and Navy aviation in Pensacola, Fla. He was assigned to the Coast Guard Air Station in San Francisco, and also participated in USCG Search and Rescue missions and traveled as the Admiral's physician to sites in the Pacific, the Orient and Vietnam.

After the military, he began his clinical practice in the emergency room of San Leandro Memorial Hospital and made it 24 hours per day, an innovative idea at the time.

He was a charter member of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in 1977-78. He also was a founding member of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, a member of the Alameda-Contra Costa County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, the American Medical Association, a Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) and Board Certified by the American Board of Medical Management (1998). He often said that

of all of his accomplishments he was most proud of his 14 years as a practicing emergency physician.

In his retirement, he was an avid reader of philosophy, psychology, medicine, history, economics, sports, business, biology, nature and five daily newspapers. He had an abiding love of nature, gardening and life in all its forms. He treasured his fellowship in the seniors' golf group at Diablo Country Club and cheering on the San Francisco Giants.

He is survived by his best friend and wife of 46 years, Jan (Unser) Mangold; sons Paul C. Mangold, PT of Danville and Peter J. Mangold, DVM of Alamo; brother John H. Mangold of San Francisco; four grandchildren; numerous cousins here and in Germany; and his loving in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Inurnment was private. Following his wish that there be no formal service or funeral music but rather a party, family and friends are invited to gather for sharing from 2:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at Diablo Country Club. Memorial donations can be sent to the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health for Dr. Gregory Enns Research Fund, 400 Hamilton Ave., Suite 340, Palo Alto 94301.

Mavis Ann Willing

Mavis Ann Willing, a resident of Danville, died June 12 at the age of 60 after a two-and-a-half year battle with ovarian cancer.

She was born Nov. 18, 1948, in Yankton, S.D., to parents Herman and Helen Potts. She had three older brothers, Vernon, Richard and Ronald. After her mother passed away in 1950, she was raised by her Aunt Anna and Uncle Adolf in Fordyce, Neb. She attended elementary school in Fordyce and attended high school in Yankton, S.D. In 1968, while attending the University of Nebraska, she met her future husband and they were married Aug. 22, 1970.

She received a master's in speech pathology from the University of Nebraska. After leaving Nebraska, her family lived in Beaverton, Ore., for nine years and San Antonio, Texas, for three years before coming to Danville where they have resided for the past 22 years. She was a highly respected speech pathologist and her patience, kindness and love for her work allowed her to connect with all her students in a special way. She enjoyed life's simple pleasures and had a strong faith based in the Catholic Church. She loved gardening with her husband, reading, taking photos, cooking with her family and walking the Iron Horse Trail and Osage Loop with her friends. She loved traveling, especially to Costa Rica, where she enjoyed sipping ice cold michiladas while rocking her grandson on the veranda.

She is survived by her husband, John Willing; her two daughters, Vanessa and Cammy; and her grandson, Rylan. She is predeceased by her mother Helen Potts, Aunt Mary, Aunt Anna, Uncle Adolf, brother-in-law Richard Willing, father-in-law

Thomas Willing, her father Herman Potts and father Ken.

A vigil was held in her honor June 16 and a Memorial Mass celebrated her life June 17 at St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon.

Daniel Keith Bird

Daniel Keith Bird, a resident of Danville, died June 13 at the age of 92. He was known by his middle name Keith.

He was born June 8, 1917, and grew up on a farm in Barton County, Kan. He loved aviation and eventually became an aeronautical engineer, receiving his master's degree at Wichita State University. He served in the Army during World War II and settled in Wichita following his discharge. He moved his family to the Seattle area while working for Boeing and later moved to Ohio to work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He moved with his second wife to California in 1983 and lived for the rest of his life in Pleasanton and Danville. He was an avid sports fan, loved traditional jazz (Dixieland) and dancing. He was a longtime member and officer of Toastmasters International and founded the Pleasanton Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ella in 1978; his wife Dorothy (Dottie) in 2006; and his brother Homer in 2008. He is survived by four siblings; six children: Michael, Rick, Judy, Joan, Mary K. and Greg; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services were held June 18 in the Wesley Center at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church in Alamo. Memorial donations may be made to the Danville Library at 400 Front St., Danville.

Paul J. Burke

Paul J. Burke, a resident of Alamo, died peacefully June 14 at the age of 90.

He was born Sept. 2, 1918. He was a native of New York City and a graduate of the Catholic University of America. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in education at Columbia University. He was a veteran of World War II, where he saw combat in France. He was a lifelong teacher and he always described himself as a teacher first. He had a distinguished career as a professor of education at the City University of New York and after moving to California, became a professor at St. Mary's College in Moraga, where he founded the School of Education and became its first dean. He retired in 1997 to fish, travel and enjoy his grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Mary Burke. He is survived by his children Bob Burke of Alamo and Lorraine Burke Hood of Fairfax; five grandchildren; and daughter-in-law Sharon Burke.

At his request, no services were held, but a Memorial Mass will be scheduled later in the summer. For those who wish to remember him, his favorite charities were the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and St. Mary's College.

SGT. DOYLE RETURNS TO BERLIN

Councilman celebrates 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Mike Doyle missed World War II but was present at the start of the Cold War.

Doyle, a Danville town councilman, recalls that all the men and boys in his coal mining town in Pennsylvania were itching to go to war in the 1940s and fight the enemy. Even his father kept returning to the recruiting office and being denied since he was needed to work in the mines plus had five children.

"They finally told him, 'Don't come down here anymore,'" Doyle recalled with a smile.

His older brother was one of the first men to cross the Rhine River into Germany and to enter Dachau concentration camp. By the time Mike Doyle finished high school in 1947, the war had ended.

"After the war everybody was coming back and there were no jobs," recalled Doyle, "and I was not about to work in the coal mines."

So, at 17, he joined the U.S. Air Force. His mother signed the papers since she didn't want him working in the coal mines either.

"I joined the service and found a home," recalled Doyle. "I absolutely loved being in the service." As a good Catholic boy, he was made a chaplain's assistant; he came to be nicknamed "Preacher."

"Being a chaplain in the service is different. They're so well-respected, and they're on their own," he explained. "I could go anywhere, and do anything, and I was meeting all these people."

He made a meteoric rise to the rank of sergeant because the chaplain didn't think it was appropriate to have a lowly airman as his assistant.

Doyle was at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio when the Berlin Airlift began and the word went out for volunteers.

"I volunteered on Tuesday and was on my way Thursday," he said, recalling his excitement. But his arrival was sobering.

"The cities were devastated," he said, explaining that whole blocks in Berlin were literally flattened with only rubble remaining. "The German people had nothing."

After the war, Germany was divided, with Russia taking the eastern half and the western half being divided among the United States, Great Britain and France. Berlin was also divided among the four although the city was situated in the Russian part.

The U.S., Britain and France had a combined total of 6,500 soldiers in Berlin, and the Russians had 400,000 stationed in and around the city, as well as 2.5 million in Eastern Europe. At first, representatives from the four powers

held meetings in Berlin to discuss its massive reconstruction. But the relationships took an unpleasant turn as Russia jockeyed to take total control. Meanwhile the Soviet Union was taking over the rest of Eastern Europe.

In June 1948, Stalin ordered a halt to supplies passing from the west through the eastern zone to Berlin. The power plant was in the Soviet sector and they began to ration electricity to West Berlin for a few hours in the middle of the night.

The Allies began to fly in supplies, since in 1945 it had been agreed that there would be three 20-mile-wide air corridors to provide access to the city. But it took 1,534 tons of food to keep the 2 million Germans alive, plus they needed coal and fuel.

"They wanted to not just starve them but for them to freeze," said Doyle.

The Americans began a heated debate over whether to fight the blockade or to just abandon Berlin.

"Then President Truman said, 'We're not leaving Berlin,'" recalled Doyle.

The Berlin Airlift was a hard sell for President Truman, who was also fighting to be re-elected. It was dubbed Operation Vittles by the Americans while the British called their efforts Operation Plane Fare.

The airlift began slowly. When it continued to grow, Gen. William Tunner, who'd run the Burma-China airlift during the war, was assigned to organize the flights to Berlin from Rhein-Main Air Base.

"Tunner was a master at energizing people," said Doyle. "He never wanted to see a plane sitting around." He required all the airplanes to fly by instruments to maintain the same speed, interval and altitude and so they could keep going despite the fog, which was unusually heavy that winter. He also did not allow crews to go inside the terminal while their planes were being unloaded; he outfitted trucks with snack bars and staffed them with the prettiest girls in Berlin. He used German crews to unload the planes to receive an extra ration card.

"They brought back airplanes from all over, from Hawaii, Texas, Alaska, Japan," Doyle remembered. "They were stopping World War III."

The transport aircraft were landing at two-minute intervals 24 hours a day in all kinds of weather, with 48 in the air at any one time. The allies feared the winter months, which the Russians assumed would put an end to the operations. But the deliveries continued with precision and by the end of February, 16 million pounds of supplies were airlifted to Berlin in a single day, double the minimum required.

The flights were landing at Tempelhof Air-

field but it soon proved inadequate. Tunner hired German women to clean up the rubble, and he hired German men to enlarge the Tegel airport in the French sector. The rubble was used for the runways.

Doyle was stationed at Erding Air Force Base, 26 miles north of Munich, which was a major supply and maintenance base. He would go on temporary duty to Berlin.

"The planes were flying in 24/7—to see it happen was unreal," Doyle said. "On April 16, 1949, Easter Sunday, a plane landed every minute of the day. The Russians decided we were there to stay."

On May 12, 1949, the Russians lifted the blockade, although Doyle noted that the Americans kept flying to build up supplies. The airlift officially ended Sept. 30, 1949, 15 months after it had begun.

Doyle and his wife, Joe Anne, returned to Berlin last month with the Berlin Airlift Association for the 60th anniversary of the Russians ending the blockade. A celebration was held in the hangar at Tempelhof.

"When they opened the doors, tens of thousands of people came down the stairs and surrounded the Americans," Doyle said. "They wanted autographs and pictures. We were interviewed by every TV and radio station. They were hugging us and kissing us."

"My wife thought we would be run over," he added. "The people absolutely loved us. There were all spectrums of people, mainly 65-70, who thanked us for what we did."

The Germans also remembered the "Candy Bomber," a pilot named Gail "Hal" Halvorsen from Utah, who is a friend of Doyle's.

Halvorsen had been shocked when he saw "the shell of a city" that was Berlin. He was walking around the perimeter of Tempelhof after a delivery when he began to talk to some German children who were watching the airplanes from behind a fence.

He wanted to help the thin children who were so poorly dressed but all he had was two pieces of chewing gum, which he tore in half and gave to them. They looked at it in wonder, smelling it and some even treasuring pieces of the wrapper. They'd never had gum or candy, since the war had been going on their entire lives.

Halvorsen promised to drop them candy from his airplane the next day, wiggling his wings so they'd know it was him. He bought out the sweets in the base store, and tied them to handkerchiefs for parachutes. He began more and more drops, and thank you letters from the Germans began arriving, addressed to Uncle Wiggly Wings and the Chocolate Flier.



Above: Danville Councilman Mike Doyle signs autographs for children who survived starvation and from Communism. **Below left:** Doyle and his wife, Joe Anne, on a trip to the Vatican when Bishop Fulton Sheen (a



"Gen. Tunner said this is good PR—he said to drop the candy in the middle of town," said Doyle. Soon Operation Little Vittles had the backing of the people back in the United States, who donated candy and "parachutes," and eventually the pilots dropped three tons of candy over Berlin, including in the Soviet sector.

Last month the Doyles were honored visitors at a school and visited a fourth-grade class that had just studied the Berlin Airlift, with a little girl named Anna assigned as their guide.

"They all wanted to touch us," said Doyle. "They asked, 'How did you feel about bringing



...ographs for the Germans in Berlin last month where he attended a commemoration of the Berlin Airlift. Tens of thousands of Germans wanted to get the Americans' autographs and say thanks for saving them from ... hilde G. Merrill of Sonoma sent this photo to Mike Doyle of her mother's group of rubble women and men in Berlin after the war. **Below center:** Young Sgt. Mike Doyle, kneeling next to Pope Pius XII, was included ... t the Pope's right) came through Germany on his way to Rome.



Post-war Berlin

After World War II, Berlin was divided into four sectors. The country was divided into West Germany and East Germany, which surrounded Berlin.



food in?' After all, three years before we'd been bombing the hell out of them. But we formed a bond with those people."

The Doyles also visited Erding and the site of an orphanage in the nearby village.

"In 1948 they had nothing and the Americans had plenty of everything," said Doyle. One day a nun came from the village orphanage to ask for help from the chaplain.

"He wasn't there but I put the nun in my jeep and we went to the mess hall. I took her to the chief cook and said, 'We have kids starving to death.'"

He also wrote to his mother and she collected clothes in her town and shipped them over.

"Everyone on base was giving everything," Doyle said. "For four years, we kept those orphans alive. I'm very proud of that."

When Bishop Fulton Sheen came through Munich on his way to Rome, he added the chaplain and Doyle to his entourage to accompany him to the Vatican.

"Twenty-eight of us were invited to be part of a private audience," Doyle said. "We went into a private garden and took a picture. My picture

went all over the world and the people in my town saw it and the nuns in my school."

Doyle has many stories from his time in the military.

"I was spoiled while I was over there," he said. "I had a special privilege pass, my own jeep. It was a spectacular time for me. I met tons and tons of people. After six years, two months and 19 days they made me come home."

He was next assigned to California, Parks Air Force Base, and he discovered Danville, where he was to settle and become councilman and

mayor.

Doyle was interviewed on television before he went to Berlin last month, and a woman from Germany who had married a G.I. and was living in Sonoma wrote to thank him. She related how she and her mother would walk great distances to pick up their rations. Her mother, who worked as a "rubble woman," was killed by a collapsing building.

"She said they owed us their lives," said Doyle. He asked to take her to dinner but she declined. "She said, 'I don't think I could stand the emotion.'" ■

Author Visit

PAULA SPAN Diablo Lodge and Hospice of the East Bay will host Paula Span, author of "When the Time Comes," at 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, at Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 838-8300. Light refreshments will be served.

Clubs

ALAMO-DANVILLE ARTISTS' SOCIETY

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

ALAMO-DANVILLE NEWCOMERS

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

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



ALAMO PARKS AND RECREATION

Alamo to host The Pundits: Combining the laid-back rhythms of traditional ska and reggae with the frenetic energy of rock and roll, The Pundits will perform tonight at 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 26, as a part of Alamo Parks and Recreation's Summer Concert Series in Livorna Park. Future concerts will take place July 17, July 31 and Aug. 14. These concerts are free. Visit www.alamore.org.

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.

COMMONWEALTH CLUB This club will host Jane Ganahl and Friends from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$12 for members; \$18 for non-members. Call (415) 597-6705.

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.

DIABLO SINGLES DANCE CLUB Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at

the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome. Call 837-2851.

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.

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.

MOMS CLUB OF DANVILLE-TASSAJARA

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

SAN RAMON VALLEY NEWCOMERS

CLUB This club will host its monthly luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, July 16, at Stixx & Steaks Restaurant in the San Ramon Marriott. Guest speaker will be Ginny Clemente. Cost varies with menu choice. Call Myrna 560-0656 for reservations and information.

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Concerts

BLACKHAWK PLAZA CONCERT SERIES Blackhawk Plaza presents its free concert series starting at 7 p.m., Fridays, July 10-Aug. 14. Busta Groove will perform July 10; Pride and Joy on July 17; The Sun Kings on July 24; East Bay Mudd July 31; Evolution: the Journey tribute band Aug. 7; and Tainted Love Aug. 14. Seating begins at 5 p.m.; no outside food or drink. Call 736-2751.

MUSIC IN THE PARK Town of Danville will host Music in the Park from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, July-August, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Lavy Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Ladies will perform July 11; The Boys of Summer on July 25; Ron Thompson on Aug. 8; and Take Two on Aug. 22. These concerts are free. Visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Events

'SHOP LOCAL' STREET FESTIVALS Shop in downtown Danville at the Shop Local Street Festivals including "Summer Serenade" from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, July 9 and "Summer Fest" from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6, in downtown Danville. There will be food, wine tasting and booths. Visit www.discoverdanvilleca.com.

'YAN CAN COOK' Danville Library Foundation will host Martin Yan, certified Master Chef and host of "Yan Can Cook," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the Danville Community Center, Valley Oak Room, 420 Front St. Call 314-3400.

AN ADOPTION FAIRE Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host an adoption faire from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at the East County Animal Shelter, Dublin. Dog adopters will receive three free private sessions with a professional trainer, bed, leash, collar and a bag of food; cat adopters will receive a free blanket and toys. Free hot dogs and drinks will be provided from 1-2 p.m. Visit www.tvar.org.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT Town of Danville will host a Family Fun Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 10, and Friday, Aug. 7, at the Monte Vista Community Pool, 3131 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. There will be pool games, prizes and music. Cost is \$2 for spectators and children 12 and under; \$3 for swimmers 13 and over; swim passes will be accepted. To register, call 314-3400 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

FIVE GREAT DATES Friday nights with your spouse have never been so much fun! Community Presbyterian Church will host 5 Great Dates from 7-9:15 p.m., every Friday, July 10-Aug. 7, meeting at the church, 222 West El Pintado Rd., Danville. Enjoy a night on the town with some fun and simple exercises to enrich your marriage. Childcare will be available. Call 855-1367 or visit www.cpcdanville.org.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOWS Danville's Hot Summer Nights Car Shows combine classic cars and camaraderie to create an evening of summer celebration from 4-9 p.m., Thursdays, July 23 and Aug. 20, in downtown Danville. To learn more,

contact David Miller at 437-3649 or ezasugo@hotmail.com.

SINGLE MINGLE PARTY Meet new single friends at this fun party from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, July 2, at the Marriott Hotel, 2355 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$10, including a mixer game and appetizers. Adults of all ages welcome. Visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

Exhibits

MODEL TRAINS Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents its Model Trains exhibit which is open until July 26. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday during the summer and will be open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, June 30-July 12. The museum is located at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Visit www.museumsv.org.

Fundraisers

'THE GREAT CATSBY' Valley Humane Society presents "The Great Catsby Casino Night" at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at a private home in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$75 per per-

son, including dinner, drink tickets, valet parking and gambling chips. For information, call 426-8656.

DANVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CABARET Danville Congregational Church will stage a Cabaret-style musical event to benefit Contra Costa Interfaith Housing from 5-7 p.m., Sunday, July 12, at the church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$8 for youth 18 years and under. Call 820-3283.

FOURTH ANNUAL ARF SUMMER BENEFIT FUNDRAISER This fundraiser will have doggie games, food, wine, live music and fun for the whole family from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at Pyrenees Pets, 3440 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Proceeds benefit Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). Call 648-7387 or visit www.pyreneespets.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER Keller Williams Realty and Alamo Women's Club will host a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser from 8-11 a.m., Saturday, July 18, at the clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$6. Proceeds benefit the

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SUMMER FUN DOG SHOW This show will be held from 4-7 p.m., Sunday, July 12, at Hap Magee Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. Activities will include fun dog competitions, obedience training, dog related vendors, face painting and photos with your dog. This event is free, except a minimal fee to participate in contests with proceeds benefiting the YMCA center. Call 831-1100 or visit www.srvymca.org/events/summer-fun-dog-show-information.

SWINGING TO CURE HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE This charity golf tournament will take place at 11:30 a.m., Monday, June 29, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$225, including golf, cocktail reception, silent and live auctions and dinner. Proceeds benefit Huntington's Disease Society of America. Visit www.swinging2cure-huntingtons.com.

Health

MEET THE EXPERT Diablo Behavioral Healthcare will hold an open house

from 5-6 p.m., Friday, July 10, at the offices in the Trumark Building, 4185 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Suite 210, Danville. Meet their new child psychiatrist. Parents are welcome to attend and ask any questions they may have about child development, parenting or behavioral concerns. This event is free. Call 648-4800.

Holiday

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE Celebrate the Fourth of July with the Town of Danville and the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 4, in downtown Danville. The theme of this year's parade is "Celebrating Our Youth." Spectator chairs may not be put next to the parade route until 6 p.m., July 3. Visit www.kiwanis-srv.org.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE PICNIC AND FIREWORKS City of San Ramon will host Fourth of July festivities from 5-10 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at Central Park, located at the corner of Bollinger Canyon Road and Alcosta Blvd. Cost for parking surrounding the park will be \$10. Call 973-3200 or visit www.sanramon.ca.gov.

the public, but reservations are required by calling 943-7323.

Miscellaneous

BOOKS FOR THE HOMEBOUND SERVICE If you are a homebound individual living in the area and are unable to visit the Danville Library for materials, volunteers are able to deliver books to you. For more information, call Sandra Paiva at 837-4889.

FRENCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS Host families urgently needed for French teenage students visiting this area in July. Get exposure to the French culture while teaching a foreign student about American customs. For information, call Mary at (510) 427-2099.

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

On Stage

APPLAUSE GOES APE Applause presents a musical review of tunes like "Hey Hey We're the Monkeys" and "Too Much Monkey Business" at 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15. Call 943-7469 or visit <http://applausekids.net/performances>. Local youths are performing.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS Tour the Contra Costa Blood Donor Center and learn about the different ways to help the American Red Cross at 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 7, and 3 p.m., Friday, July 10, at 140 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. To learn more, call Mandy at (510) 594-5211.

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.

Lectures/ Workshops

ASK THE PHARMACIST Join Zan Sorooshian, Kaiser Oncology Pharmacist, as he answers your questions from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, June 30, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This workshop is free for cancer patients and their support. Call 933-0107.

NEWLY DIAGNOSED BREAST CANCER GROUP For those in or just starting treatment, this free group will meet from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., every Wednesday, July 1-Oct. 24, meeting at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Guest oncology experts along with group support provide tools to help. Call 933-0107.

WATER CONSERVATION CK Management Systems will host a workshop on water conservation at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 27, at Patrick David's Event Center, 2460 Old Crow Canyon Rd., San Ramon. A variety of topics will be covered. This event is free and is open to

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Members of the Interact Club took on a project to assemble prosthetic hands for children in developing countries.



Nimmi Lau pieces together the parts of a prosthetic hand for a child who needs one due to a birth defect, accident or tribal warfare.



Amanda Chan shows off a prosthesis she put together as part of her Interact Club project at Monte Vista High School.

The impact of Interact

High school service club helps teenagers use their talents to do good

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The high school volunteers were stunned by the news.

"I'm sorry, but we have to cancel your date to sort food at the Food Bank," said the e-mail from volunteer coordinator Sharon Zeppigno. "The Food Bank is out of donated food until next month."

When they heard this, members of Monte Vista's Interact Club decided to take action. In less than three weeks in the spring, they collected more than 1,800 pounds of cereals, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, and other items on the Food Bank's list of "10 Most-Needed Items." They had help from the school staff and the Rotary Club of Alamo, their sponsoring organization.

Then a group of the students went to the Concord facility to sort the food they had collected.

This is typical of the volunteer efforts this club has engaged in since the beginning of the school year, said Beth Burlingame-Randall, their advisor from Alamo Rotary. The students also held two major fundraisers for international causes:

- A lap swimming event raised more than \$2,500 to help with polio eradication in Asia and Africa; and

- A pledge campaign raised more than \$3,200 for prosthetic hands for children in third-world countries who have lost their hands due to birth defects, accidents and tribal warfare.

"The kids have carried out 18 community and worldwide service projects," said Burlingame-Randall. They truly live the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," she added.

During the 2008-09 school year, the students were involved with at least one community service effort per month. They col-



When the Interact Club members found out there was no food to sort for the Food Bank, they went on a collection drive, with (l-r) Victoria Escalada, Logan Su, Asha Feydouni, Sawako Konishi, Mabel Tong, Amanda Awai (with thumbs up), Shiyulli Suriyakumar, Advisor Beth Burlingame-Randall and Paolo Rigo.

lected backpacks and school supplies for students in Contra Costa County; bought gifts for servicemen in Iraq with the Blue Star Moms; and brought in warm coats and blankets for the homeless. They also adopted 100 children from the Bay Area Crisis Nursery's Angel Tree and bought them gifts and warm clothing for the holidays; bought stuffed animals that they delivered to a senior care

center in San Ramon; and served meals to the homeless at Glide Kitchen in San Francisco.

Next year's Interact president, Shiyulli Suriyakumar, said a lot of kids originally join Interact because it looks good on their college applications—but then they end up loving it.

"Our awesome advisors push us out of our comfort zone," she said about Burlingame-

Randall and teacher Patti Carothers. "They are so dedicated. Ms. Randall is involved with Rotary and knows a lot, and knows we can make a big difference."

"We really help a lot of people, whether with school supplies for kids who can't afford it, or at the food pantry, or taking teddy bears to people in retirement homes," said Suriyakumar. "It helps kids in the Danville bubble get exposed to life outside."

"This is a large part of why it makes an impact on the kids and on the other people," she continued. "I think it's one of the best clubs at our school."

She said this wide range of activities means students discover at least one cause they want to embrace, plus the myriad facets of each project help them find their own niche.

"People can do things that fit their abilities," she explained. "Some are better at raising money. Others are better at interacting with others."

Suriyakumar thinks Interact is an unusual club, not just for high school but for anywhere.

"The attitude of everybody is about helping as many people as we can," she said. "I'm proud to say I'm part of it. I'm glad I'll have more chance next year, as president, to contribute."

She said her mother also works with charities so the whole idea of giving back is important to her, and she thinks it's smart for Rotary to take their philosophy to the teens.

"We're passionate about things," Suriyakumar said. "Maybe that's why it's done so well."

Burlingame-Randall noted that the Interact members believe they have a responsibility to their community and the world, and they know that they can make a difference.

"They are a shining example of the best of their generation," she said. ■

Shop and experience why these merchants were voted #1 in the Danville Weekly's 2009 Readers Choice contest

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ClubSport San Ramon 350 Bollinger Canyon Lane, San Ramon 735-8500 www.clubsportsr.com	Best Fitness Club
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Gayler Construction 319 Diablo Road #202, Danville 820-0185 www.gaylerconstruction.com	Best Remodeling Contractor
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OF NOTE



Boy wins bike for his essay questioning global warming

Wesley Brown, an 8-year-old home-schooled boy from Merced, receives a bicycle for winning the essay contest on "Where is Al Gore wrong in his book, 'An Inconvenient Truth'?" sponsored by the Synergy Institute. "It is interesting that all contestants were homeschooled children," said Vlado Bevc, the Danville resident who is founder of the Institute.

In his essay, Wesley states, "The former vice president, Al Gore thinks Global Warming is because of man. Sometimes global warming can be because of man but it is sometimes because of more sunspots on the sun and other natural events that happen in the environment."

He concludes, "If global warming happens like Al Gore says it will happen, which I do not think it will, then maybe polar bears will adapt to the changes like what happens with lots of other different species. This is the way God created animals to be able to change as the world changes because of sin."



San Ramon Valley Teen Idol

The winners of the San Ramon Valley Teen Idol, sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Rotary club, are in. First place went to 16-years-old Jordan Smith, who won \$1,000 and a recording session. Second place went to Braden Sweeney, 14, who received a check for \$500. Third place went to Alissa Anderegg, 16, who received a check for \$250.

Judges for the fourth Valley-wide Teen Idol included San Ramon Mayor H. Abram H. Wilson, Sylvia Manker, Larry Blair and Stevie Rae Stephens, the winner of the 2006 Valley Teen Idol.

The winning performance can be seen on YouTube.



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ART SPACE

Art on the Lane:
Four local artists
join forces to
create and teach

Four local artists have pooled their talents and resources to create an art space in downtown Danville. Barbara Davies, Kathy McCartney, Rich McVey and Joanne Robinson are the principals of Art on the Lane, toward the end of a lane off Prospect Avenue (behind Starbucks at Hartz and Prospect). Located at 122 E. Prospect, this venue is an amplification of Davies' former studio, a few doors down the lane.

Over the past six years, Davies says, she has occupied every space on the lane at various times. Because of high rent costs, she notes, "It doesn't make sense to have space by yourself." Thus the collective venture.

The new space affords the four artists a place to display and sell their work. In addition, Davies and McCartney currently offer painting classes, and Davies stresses their importance. She taught K-6 art in the San Ramon Valley school district, has three teaching credentials, and says she has brought those experiences to Art on the Lane.

There, children and adults can learn to draw and paint in a variety of media. Morning, afternoon and evening classes are offered for all levels and ages, starting at age 8. Students may take lessons



Kathy McCartney, Joanne Robinson, Rich McVey and Barbara Davies have created Art on the Lane at 122 E. Prospect in Danville.

given by McCartney or Davies or attend workshops with Davies. Robinson says she plans to start offering lessons in the fall.

McCartney, who now has 19 students, points out that she studied for eight years with Tom Anderson, a teacher in the community who operated Art By U. McCartney took on his students when he stopped teaching.

The artists

Barbara Davies says that her oil paintings are inspired by her travels, nature and the beauty of simple objects. "I strive to capture the interplay of light, shadow and color in the court-

yards, gardens and cafes of Europe." She calls her painting style "urban realism." Davies notes that her work is exhibited at the Basil Leaf Café, Rising Loafer, and Café Meyers in Danville as well as in venues such as the prestigious Zantman Galleries in Carmel and Palm Desert. Visit www.bdaviesart.com.

Kathy McCartney says that her love for the arts and the tropics formed during childhood, when she lived on Oahu. "I remember my fascination with the turquoise ocean and the way the sun beamed through the drifting clouds." She transitioned that fascination to oil on canvas, spe-

cializing in scenes from Hawaii, where her work is exhibited for sale. Visit www.McCartney-FineArt.com

In the early 1970s, Rich McVey bought a used 35mm Canon FP Camera and was, as he says, "hooked" on photography. When the digital revolution emerged in the late 1980s, he "brought the dark room into my workspace, enabling me to do the complete job, from the initial shoot to the final print." McVey says he enjoys portraiture, scenic landscapes and "anything out of the normal." After every shoot, he says, he always critiques his work and tries to improve for the next shoot. Visit richtrex@pacbell.net.

Joanne Robinson has been painting in oil for five years, after working in the accounting profession for 30 years. Her work is clearly influenced by Davies, with whom she studied for several years and then shared space in one of Davies' other venues on the lane.

—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.



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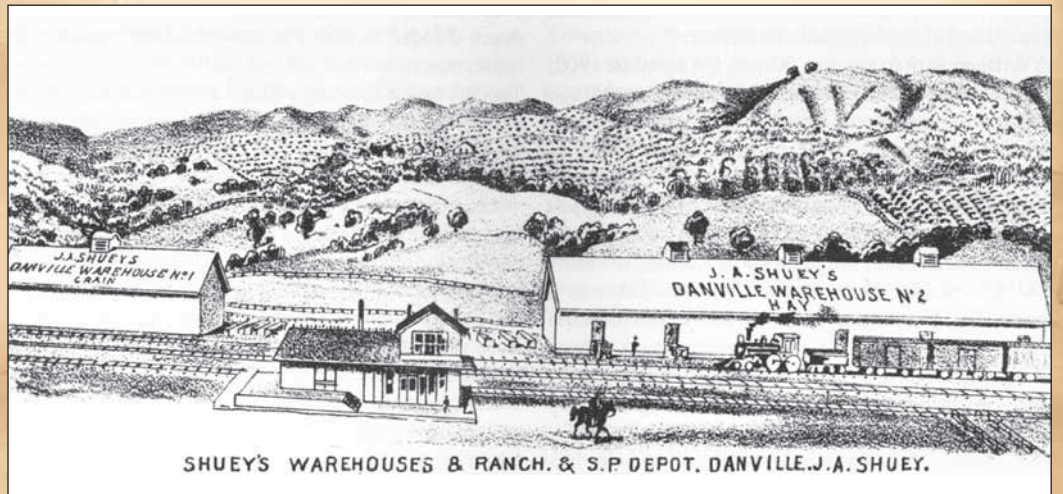
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"SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE, AND SAN RAMON" BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

The Danville Depot and Shuey warehouses: This c. 1895 lithograph drawing with Las Trampas hills to the west shows the Danville Depot and adjacent warehouses. Ranchers stored their grain and hay in the warehouses and were able to ship their products on demand. Fires in warehouses left their mark; in January 1893, one Shuey hay warehouse was completely destroyed by fire. Four thousand tons of hay were lost and the depot was threatened.

THE WINE GUY



BY DON COLMAN

Diamonds in the rough

2006 Miner Sangiovese

One of the best things about writing a wine article is my endless search for a diamond in the rough. I will taste a bunch of different wines, which I will never write about, and then I find it! A wine few have heard of, let alone tried. This happened to me recently. A Danville Weekly reader named Cindy e-mailed me and told me I must try Miner Family Vineyards and it turned out to be one of those diamonds.

As the name suggests, Miner Family Vineyards is a family affair. It is run by a husband and wife team, with some help from

Mom and Dad. Miner is a growing brand, which currently produces 25,000 cases per year but has the capability of expanding to 100,000 cases. Currently they mainly produce small-lot wines. The benefit of small-lot wines is twofold. First, they tend not to be as generic as some of the mass-produced wines. In smaller lots, the vintner can have a little more control on the outcome of the wine. Second, they make great gift wines, as the recipient has rarely heard or tried the wines.

The gem that I found this week is the 2006 Miner Sangiovese, which cost about \$24. Sangiovese is a finicky grape to grow. It thrives in a low altitude, warmer climates, is late to ripen and may easily rot if it gets too damp. However, if the grower and winemaker get it right, it is a thing of beauty.

The Miner Sangiovese is a very appealing, fruit forward wine. Lots of berries in the scent and as it opens up the fresh smell of vanilla and sweet wood make an appearance. It is a complex wine on the taste as initially it starts off sweet (front of the tongue) and then moves to a more sour taste (sides of the tongue) on the finish. Finding a wine that stimulates both sweet and sour creates a lingering sensation in the mouth and the urge to keep reaching for another glass.

Sangiovese pairs well with most Italian or Greek dishes but works especially well with tomato based pasta. For a change, try matching this to sweet and sour dishes and it should truly help with the finish on the wine.

As we all know, finding a great wine is often like finding a great recipe—the best ones come from friends and family. If there is a wine or winery you would like me to review, please e-mail me with the details and I will get right on it. 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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Looking for old T-Birds

The San Ramon Valley T-Birds, a local youth tackle football and cheer organization, is looking for alumni who have been involved in the program during the past

50 years. Alumni are asked to go to the Web site—www.srvtbirds.com—and register so they may be included in the 50-year celebration.



Cardinals bring park alive for championship

The Tassajara Valley Little League, Majors Division, finished its playoffs on a cool and breezy evening at Sycamore Park on June 9, with two underdog teams that had started the season slowly—the Cardinals and the Marlins. Excitement built as the game drew to a tie, 4-4, in the fourth inning. The battle continued until the end, with the Cardinals winning, 6-4.

"In my seven years in TVLL I have never been more proud of a team than the Cards," said Head Coach Joel Golub. "The boys battled throughout the season, showing their true character by never giving up, demonstrating good sportsmanship, a commitment to team goals and discipline to improve their baseball skills in reaching their potential."

Cardinals team members are (back row, l-r) Assistant Coach Desmond Gumbs, Assistant Coach Eric White, Head Coach Joel Golub, (middle) Baxter Cantrell, Jack Kundred, Chandler Gumbs, Grant Chapman, Nathan White, Andrew Lapin, (front) Conner Boyle, Joe Huffman, Maverick Pallack, John Henry Woolway, Daniel Golub, Peter Davis and Brandon Sturla. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Paul Cantrell.



Exploding in division final

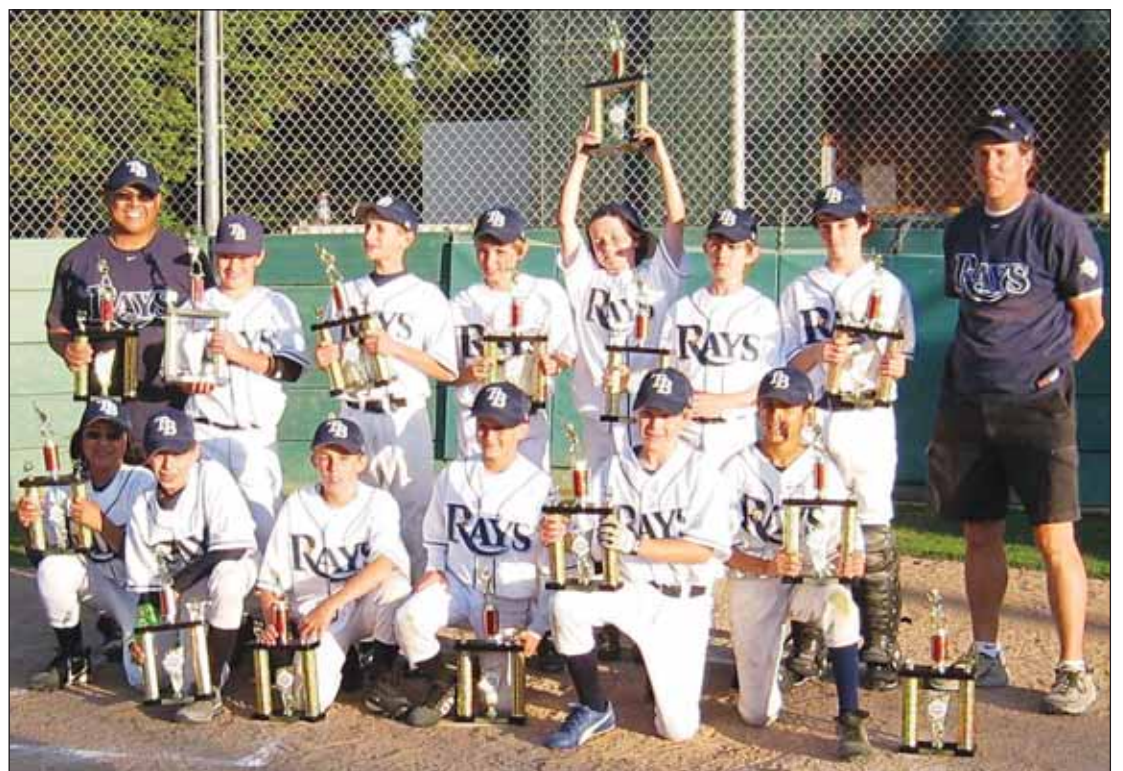
The Xplosion 7/8 Red SRV GAL finished the season by winning their division playoff final with an exciting game, beating Storm 2-1. They qualified by winning their semifinal 9-8 on Thursday by beating Thunder in extra innings. Team members are (top row, l-r) Coach Chris Chalmers, Marina Velo, Rachel Lennon, Lindsey Chalmers, Samantha Linford, Grace Reckers, Coach Dave Williams, (middle) Heather Rigby, Audrey Utchens, Kelsey Williams, Brooke Begun, (bottom) Alex Weltz and Justine Garvin.



White Sox take Danville Little League Majors

The White Sox were tied 13-7 in the season but won all four post-season games to win the Majors championship for Danville Little League at Osage Park on June 10. The final game was 8-3 against the Athletics. JJ Koski pitched almost five innings with five strike-outs, four walks and no runs. Riley Moore closed the game with two strike-outs, three runs and two hits. Each year the team also hosts the Joey Moore Memorial Tournament.

Celebrating their championship are (back row, l-r) Pierson Berry, Tyler Firebaugh, Coach Jay Koski, Oliver Page, Coach Dean Kanat, Riley Moore, Brenden O'Connell, Sam Mohr, Manager Mike O'Connell, Aaron Rosenberg, Louis Smith, (front) Anthony Cosgrove, JJ Koski, Nate Kanat and AJ Silva.



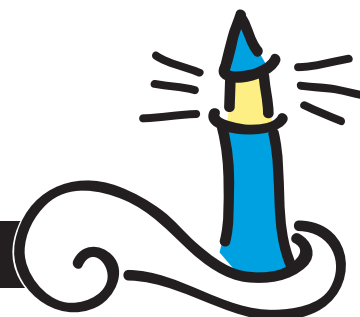
Rays are Majors league champs

The Rays beat the Orioles 3-2 on June 8 during a very close game up until the last inning. The Rays took a 1-0 lead in the first inning and then took a 3-0 lead in the third inning. In the 5th inning, the Orioles started to come back, 3-2. With two outs, runners on second and third, Jack Darroch made a key play at first to stop the Orioles' rally. In the sixth inning, the top of the order of the Orioles were up, the first two batters hit singles to get runners on first and second. The next batter struck out and the second out was a fly ball that was caught by Dylan Lottinville. The third out was a grounder to Dean Taylor on a force out at second. It was a battle between Rays starting pitcher Brandon Wise and Orioles starting pitcher Drew Kunde.

Rays team members are (front, l-r) Joshua Manela, Eddie Kudey, Brandon Wise, Garrett Stemmler, Daniel Bigelow, Nolan Bebart, (back) Coach Manny Manela, Dylan Lottinville, Dasher Rovner, Gregory Gibbert, Dean Taylor, Jack Darroch, Bobby Pedley, Manager Greg Gibbert, and Coach Clint Taylor (not pictured).

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210 Garage/Estate Sales
Danville, 162 Belgian Dr, June 27, 8-3 p.m.
Garage Sale for Elementary Teachers - Big books, books, manipulatives, puzzles, games, toys, kitchen (kinder) and more!
Pleasanton, 546 Touriga Court, June 27 & 28, 2009

215 Collectibles & Antiques
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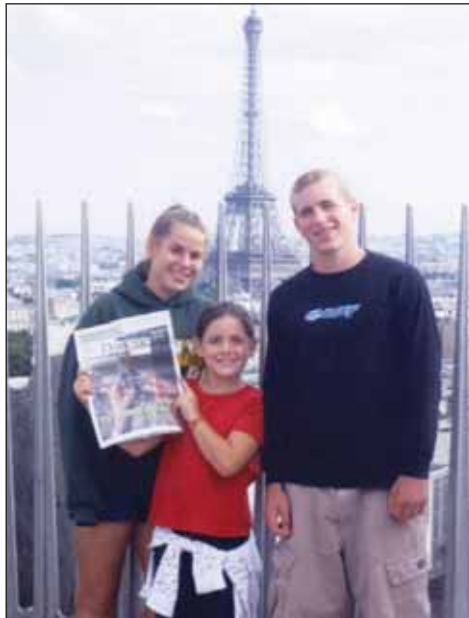
TAKE US ALONG



Making new friends: When Randy Coyner traveled to China last August during the 2008 Olympics, he shared the Danville Weekly at the new modern Beijing Airport with the young Chinese host and greeters already in place to welcome visitors.



Well-preserved: Braeden and Garrett Pugh of Danville visited El Jem, Tunisia, which is the second largest preserved coliseum.



View from the Arc: Tess, Annie and Connor Kevorkian enjoy their Weekly while ignoring the view of the Eiffel Tower from the top of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

PET OF THE WEEK

Crazy for kittens

Meet Maiden and Ellie, just two of numerous kittens and adult cats available for adoption at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center in Dublin. Maiden, a calico, and Ellie, an orange tabby with white boots, are 2 months old and already spayed. The SPCA will tell you that kittens are cute but they have a lot of energy! Many beautiful, mellow, adult housecats need homes as well. Adoption fees are \$50 and include spay/neuter surgery, micro-chip and registration, age appropriate vaccinations, leukemia testing, flea treatment and a new pet health check at the SPCA's veterinary clinic or by a participating veterinarian. The East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, is open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670.

The East Bay SPCA's Summer of Love Adopt-a-thon is coming up soon. More than 100 dogs, cats and rabbits will be available for adoption from local rescue groups and animal shelters from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 19 at Jack London Square in Oakland. Visit www.eastbayspca.org/events.



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Marketplace

Danville Weekly

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2009-2010
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Danville



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during May 2009

Danville

110 Boyd Court Aurora Loan Services to R. Zerbst for \$560,000

531 Cambrian Way Peters Trust to T. Ng for \$529,000

1120 Delta Way S. & C. Miller to W. Lyons for \$695,000

1362 Fountain Springs Circle F. Schneider to S. Tacchini for \$599,000

2304 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to Luqman Trust for \$960,000

4220 Knollview Drive K. & D. Masters to S. Levitskiy for \$750,000

1008 Ocho Rios Drive Hagen Trust to J. Vindasius for \$941,000

1088 Ocho Rios Drive T. Schmitz to S. Mollins for \$896,000

175 Rubicon Circle D. Rehal to A. Thompson for \$362,000

531 Silver Lake Drive P. Petit to G. Allen for \$635,000

450 Sycamore Hill Drive Lather Trust to J. & M. Tallman for \$425,000

28 Volterra Court A. & J. Klein to S. & D. Ryan for \$890,000

3932 Welshland Street Shapell Industries to M. Zhang for \$835,000

254 West Prospect Avenue L. & Y. Austere to Blackwell Trust for \$2,100,000

15 Windsor Court J. & C. Rollins to C. & N. Thompson for \$815,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

4 BEDROOMS

70 Zand Lane **\$1,075,000**
Sun 12-3 ReMax Accord 895-2804

Livermore

5 BEDROOMS

1312 Carlton Place **\$865,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS

9146 Longview Drive **\$1,089,000**
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

1063 Hopkins Way **\$1,229,000**

Sun 1:30-4:30 Morning Star Properties Inc. 679-2100

3150 Paseo Robles **\$750,000**

Sun 1-4 Sheehan Real Estate 415-302-2500

5 BEDROOMS

559 Del Sol **\$989,000**

Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-3534

San Ramon

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5400 Canyon Crest Drive **\$798,500**

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