

# Danville Weekly

**Living strong and giving back:** Danville cancer survivor raises \$400,000 for charities PAGE 12

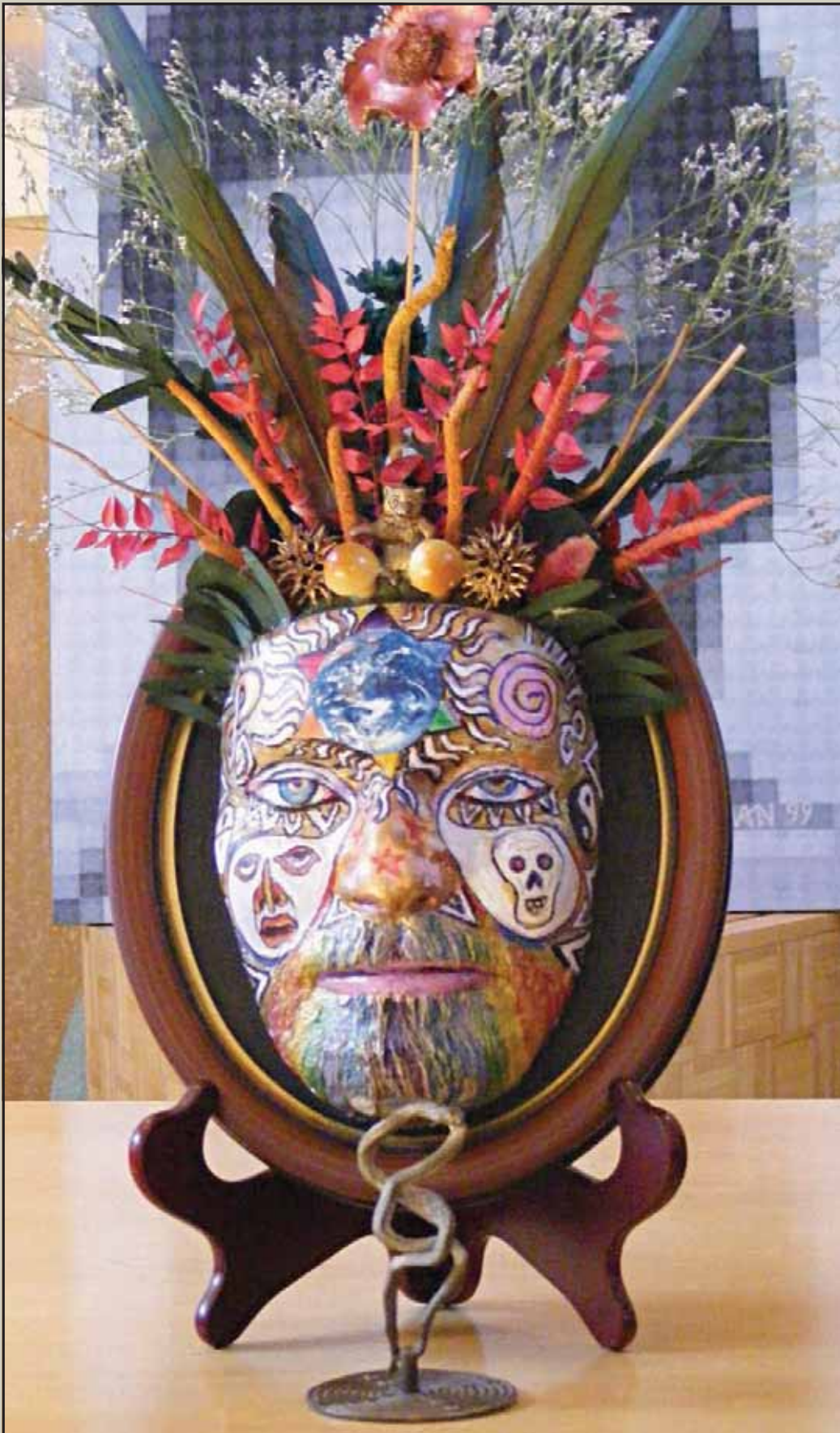
**Ms. speed demon:** Middle school girl makes name for herself in Junior Drag Racing PAGE 15

INSIDE

Vol. V, Number 11 · July 10, 2009

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

www.DanvilleWeekly.com



PHILIP HELLSTEN: 1952-2009

## From star man to star dust

*Artist is remembered as a rare breed with a zest for life who brought out the starlike beauty in each of us*

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## SAVE THE DATE ...

The 20th Annual San Ramon Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be held on August 31, 2009, at the prestigious Crow Canyon Country Club. Please plan to attend with San Ramon business and community leaders for fun, prizes ... and NETWORKING. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to support our local schools.

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This seminar is funded in part by Franklin Templeton Investments.

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**DATE**  
Tuesday, July 21, 5:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION**  
Round Hill Country Club  
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Alamo

**SPEAKER**  
**Kent Johansson**  
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**TownSquare Forum**

# Streetwise

ASKED AT THE VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER IN DANVILLE

## What would you do if you came into a lot of money?

Question submitted by Joan Kurtz



I have a huge family, and I guess I would support those people. I don't think I would keep a lot of it, as I would give most of it away to veterans, the homeless, charities, etc. The amount I would keep I would use for my everyday expenses and my children's. I do think we all have more than we need.

**Pat Harr**  
Retired, telephone company

I would buy a bunch of clothes and then donate them to charity. I would give the rest of it to animals in need. I already have everything I need.

**Annalise Northway**  
Charlotte Wood Middle School, seventh grade



First I'd eliminate any personal debts and establish investments for my current and future family members. I've actually had this planned out. I'd start a facility where the homeless can come and establish a physical address and get rigorous job and life skills training, including professional development, with the end goal to move out and support themselves and give back.

**Bryan Rocco**  
U.S. Air Force graduate

I'd do a lot of things with the money because there's a lot I want to accomplish. I would first give a large amount to my parents and family to help out and promote their well-being for the rest of their lives. Then I would travel and explore Europe and other parts of the world. The remainder would go to investments and donations.

**Claire Sullivan**  
San Diego State sophomore



The first thing I'd do is treat my parents to a vacation in Hawaii. Then I would travel the world, especially Ireland and Scotland. Also, I'd go to Africa to see what I can do to help there. I would put the majority of it away in investments to save for when I get out of college.

**Jensen McKean**  
Diablo Valley College sophomore baseball player

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

## About the Cover

This symbol-laden death mask of Philip Hellsten, artist and starman who died June 24, was created by fellow artist Bill Carmel and displayed at his Celebration of Life. The small replica of the caduceus in front with the two intertwined snakes represents the duality of the spiritual and the mundane. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli.

Vol. V, Number 11

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# Danville Weekly

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“With all the education we have out there, you’d think people would know better.”

**Police Sgt. Kevin Daley** about nine DUI arrests last week in Danville. See story, PAGE 11.

## NEWS DIGEST

### Traffic deaths down over Fourth of July weekend

Whether it was the economy keeping people from traveling or the strong presence of law enforcement, traffic related fatalities in California were down from last year by nearly 50 percent.

California Highway Patrol Officer Hugo Mendoza said that over the weekend starting Friday and ending at midnight Sunday, there were 1,239 motorists arrested for driving under the influence.

The Bay Area saw only one traffic death over that period, although statewide the number was 24, down significantly from the 41 reported in 2008. Mendoza added that of the 24 deaths this year, half of those killed could have survived if they had been wearing seatbelts.

### Eat pancakes for a good cause

Enjoy a breakfast fit for heroes in Alamo next week. The Alamo Women's Club and Keller Williams Realty are working together to host a Hero's Pancake Breakfast to benefit families of the four Oakland police officers killed in the line of duty in March.

“After this tragic event, Danville and Alamo needed to show their support for these brave men,” said Corinne Barlow, first vice president of the Alamo Women's Club.

The breakfast is being held at the Alamo clubhouse Saturday, July 18. It begins at 8 a.m. and will run until 11 a.m., with the goal of raising \$10,000.

The cost is \$6 per person, and children under 5 are free for a full breakfast. A 50/50 drawing will also be held with the ticket price being split evenly between the winner and the benefit. All proceeds are going toward the officers' families' trust funds and toward the California Transplant Donor Network. Sgt. Erv Romans was a Danville resident and his family still lives here.

Buying tickets in advance is recommended; contact Barlow at peanut3164@sbcglobal.net or telephone 878-5200.

“We need everyone to come out and show their full support in this situation,” said Barlow.

### District announces high school assistant principals

Members of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District held a special meeting Friday to handle personnel matters. Among the items discussed were the hirings of four new assistant principals at the district high schools.

Monte Vista High School will see two new assistants. Adam Jennings and John Paul Ballou were hired to fill two vacancies. Nermin Kamel was chosen to fill a position at San Ramon Valley High School. California High's new assistant principal is Jennifer Tilton.

School board officials say they received 97 applications for the four openings. The review committee narrowed the list down to 10 candidates, who were brought in for interviews. Five were called back for second interviews and then offers were made to the four who were chosen.

### Learn about volunteering at the Red Cross

American Red Cross, Northern California Region, is holding two volunteer orientations in August. They will include tours of the Contra Costa Blood Donor Center and lessons about the different ways to help, such as greeting, informing and thanking the blood donors or posting fliers at key locations.

The orientations will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11, and at 3 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at 140 Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill. Dates and times are subject to change according to interest. To learn more, contact Mandy at 594-5211 or lewism@usa.redcross.org.

### Corrections

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

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## School district looks to the future

By GEOFF GILLETTE

The future is coming—and it has a hefty price tag.

Technology Director Bruce Chmielesky recently gave an update to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board, reporting that while the innovations heading toward students are amazing, there is still a question of finding the dollars to get to that future.

“We have a lot of challenges facing us,” Chmielesky explained. “We will need to make some changes to our infrastructure in order to be able to move ahead.”

Challenges include bandwidth, connectivity, communications, security and obsolescence. Much of the equipment in the district, servers, switches and other gear, will need to be replaced at some point due to age and the slow erosion of their ability to service the higher end computers that continue to emerge.

### Tech update shows high cost of upgrades

Chmielesky broke the technology replacement plan down into five tiers:

1. Critical network infrastructure, instructional labs, libraries
2. Teacher laptop/desktop and printer
3. Elementary school labs, special interventions/initiatives
4. School clusters and single computers
5. District level administrative and support computers

Currently, the estimated cost of replacing tiers 1-3 is around \$1.6 million per year over five years. Chmielesky said that if a bond measure were used to cover the expense it would need to be around \$14 million. At this time, no such bond measure is being considered.

District Superintendent Steve Enoch, a

strong proponent of 21st Century learning and the need for a higher level of technology in the classroom, said he wanted the school board to get Chmielesky’s report because even in a time of fiscal uncertainty it is necessary to keep looking at that next step.

“I’m worried that in the sweeping avalanche of the budget that we’ve lost site of the technology. Even so, we’ve tried to stay the course,” Enoch stated. “We need a vision, even though we don’t know where the dollars are.”

Chmielesky said the changes they are seeing mean that classrooms are headed in a direction different from what has been seen before.

“Netgen students don’t read newspapers, but like magazines. They will never own a land line,” he said.

He added that these next generation students will place a high priority on communication and expect that everything will eventually move to mobile communications.

“We need to talk to our customers,” he explained.

He said that a survey of 280,000 students showed that they want an experience very different from what has been available in the past. Some of the things they are looking for are digital textbooks, earning college credit for classes, and being able to take classes that are not offered locally.

As part of the technology upgrade, the district is continuing to look at evolving the classroom to reflect these changes in technology and the way in which the approach to teaching will need to adapt.

“Schools haven’t changed, the world has,” said Chmielesky. ■



COURTESY HUGGINS FAMILY

Danville resident Evan Huggins displays the golf ball and the 5 wood he used to shoot an ace at Diablo Creek Golf Course.

## Move over, Tiger

Danville 10-year-old shoots hole-in-one

By CHUCK HERRMANN

Evan Huggins approached the seventh hole at Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord on June 30 with a goal that was difficult but not impossible.

“I just wanted to hit a good shot so I could maybe birdie the hole,” said Evan, which means he was hoping to shoot 1 under par.

What Evan did instead is close to miraculous. With one careful shot he launched his ball into the air on this par 3 hole, only to see the ball roll onto the green, and then disappear. He had done it: made a hole-in-one.

Evan is not a professional golfer; no, he is a 10-year-old in the fifth grade at Greenbrook Elementary School in Danville.

He slugged the hole-in-one using his 5 wood and all the skills he has accumulated since he began golfing at the young age of 3. He started honing his impressive skills because his grandparents got him hooked.

This hole-in-one was “the coolest thing I’ve done in sports,” said Evan, who was golfing with his 12-year-old brother Ryan on that astonishing day.

Golf Digest reported on the odds of such a shot in a 1999 issue: “One insurance company puts a PGA Tour pro’s chances at 1 in 3,756 and an amateur’s at 1 in 12,750.”

Evan is a skilled athlete in more than just golf. When not impersonating his idol Tiger Woods, he is a goal-scoring forward in soccer or a dominating ace pitcher in baseball.

He plans to continue improving his golf game, with the goal of maybe one day becoming a professional golfer.

With a hole-in-one at age 10, he has a good start. ■

## Danville budgeting to become pro-active

State financial antics spur ‘hands-on’ approach

By GEOFF GILLETTE

As California continues to try to clean up a budgetary mess that was years in the making, a frequent casualty of these efforts are the cities. State funding to mandated programs may be cut or reduced and in some cases the state will go ahead and take money right out of city coffers to help cover a multi-billion dollar deficit.

This constant fluctuation of funds is leading cities like Danville to change their approach to budgeting and adopt a more watchful stance over their bottom lines.

Danville Town Manager Joe Calabrigo referred to this new process as “adaptive budgeting.”

“In the past, we would spend a couple of months leading up to the adoption of a budget by the beginning of June,” Calabrigo explained. “Then the council would come back and look at where things stood mid-year. Any adjustments that needed to be made were made, and then you typically wouldn’t look at it again until you started the process for the next fiscal year.”

Calabrigo said that as they were wrapping up the budget for the new fiscal year he suggested to the Town Council that it may want to revisit the spending plan more often, in order to be ready to respond to any further “takes” by the state.

“This has gone from being a matter you look at a couple of times. I think this idea of approving a financial plan once a year and expecting it to be the same plan at the end of the year is a fallacy at this time of economic upheaval,” Calabrigo explained.

He and Town Finance Manager Elizabeth Hudson meet on a weekly basis to examine the town’s revenues and expenditures, determining where they stand in relation to their projections and what, if any, corrections might need to be made.

In addition, Calabrigo meets regularly with all of the town’s department heads in order to get a sense of what is happening in their respective departments and get a heads-up on any particular problems that may be coming their way.

“When there are significant things to report along to the council, either positive or negative, I communicate that to them,” he said.

Specifically regarding finances, though, Calabrigo said he is expecting that they will report more often during public meetings. This is in order to have greater transparency with the public.

“Given the economic conditions that everyone is dealing with, and in some cases struggling with, it’s incumbent on us to present the information to them in such a way to let the community know. If we have to cut back on services, they (the public) will be able to see where these cuts are coming from,” Calabrigo stated.

Last month the town passed a very lean budget, made possible by a number of cost cutting moves, such as not filling vacant positions, reducing travel expenditures, and not giving pay increases.

Property tax and sales tax revenues continue to be a source of

See **BUDGETING** on Page 9



GEOFF GILLETTE

The Yau Kung Moon Lion Dance Troupe of San Francisco included a dragon and several lions in the Danville parade. The group has been named National Lion Dance Champions seven times.

# A festive Fourth



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Band members from the four high schools—San Ramon Valley, Monte Vista, California and Dougherty Valley—join together to form the award-winning Danville Weekly Marching Band.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Fourth of July festivities bring out the red, white and blue togs as well as the fun hairstyles.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

The Sycamore Lawnmower Brigade is a crowd favorite and again took first place as the best entry under neighborhood/homeowner association.

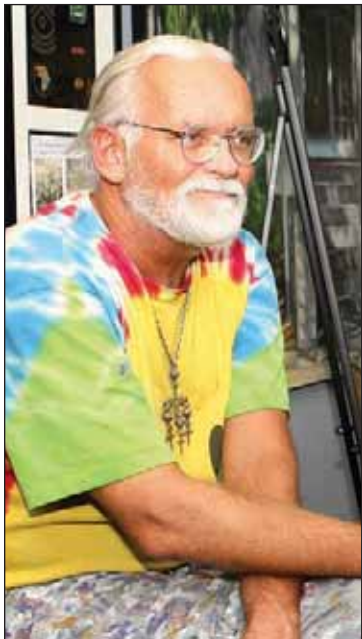
## Parade winners

The Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley announced winners from its Danville Fourth of July Parade in 22 separate categories, chosen from the 120 entries this year. The theme of the parade was “Celebrating Our Youth,” and the grand marshal was 300 children walking and riding bikes decorated in red, white and blue.

The winners were awarded trophies at the regular weekly noon Kiwanis luncheon Thursday, July 9, at Round Hill Country Club. Proceeds from the parade benefit nonprofit groups in the area.

- Animal, non-horse:** Tassajara 4-H Club
- Antique auto:** Forest Home Farms (tractors)
- Band:** Danville Weekly (combined high school band)
- Bicycle:** Little Rollers
- Church group:** San Ramon Valley United Methodist (Char Wars Grill Team)
- Community service:** East Bay Regional Park District
- Country Club:** Cottage Jewel (County Swim Champions)
- Dance/theatrical:** Yau Kung Moon
- Family:** Carol and Lance Pierovich
- Float:** Super Franks Fun Adventure
- Horse:** Western Haflinger Association
- Majorette:** Skye Valley Pony Club
- Marching unit:** Precision Drill Team Ministries
- Neighborhood/homeowner association:** Sycamore Lawnmower Brigade
- Novelty-comic group:** Devil Mountain Brigade
- Parade theme:** East Bay Blue Star Mom’s Chapter 101
- Retail business:** Alamo ACE Hardware
- School spirit:** SRVHS Cheerleaders
- Scout troop:** Cub Pack 805
- Service business:** Down’s Syndrome Connection
- Special interest auto:** Danville de Elegance (annual fundraiser to fight Parkinson’s disease)
- Sports team:** Tri-Valley Quarter Midget Association (Little League of Nascar racing)

**See more parade photos at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com).**



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM  
Philip Hellsten, a prominent part of the Danville art scene, relaxes at a jam session at Pioneer Art Gallery in October.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI  
Alamo artist Beth Batchelor painted "Phil Will Paint with the Angels" in his memory. It was displayed at the celebration of his life.

## Starman celebrated as an inspiration

*'I love life and life loves me—everything is as it should be'*

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The only thing missing from the celebration of life for Philip Hellsten last Thursday afternoon at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville was the Starman himself, although a death mask of his likeness covered with his symbolism peered over the crowd. He died unexpectedly in his home June 24.

The artist was eulogized by the Rev. Steve Harms, who quoted from the Christian and the Tibetan Bibles to conjure up a portrait of the artist as a different but creative and giving man, who enlivened the streets of Danville for many decades as he walked about his business.

"He brought out the starlike beauty in each one of us," said Harms. "Phil was quirky ... He was a rare breed but had a zest for life. ... He taught us to see in new ways, and he looked for the best in people. He was a freethinker who made people happy."

When he died, the book "I am the Door" was on his nightstand, and many passages were underlined, said Harms. One was: "Work that is not joyful to you accomplishes nothing."

"Star man has become star dust," he added.

The church was filled with hundreds of friends, old and new. Works of art created by him and inspired by him filled the vestibule. He was described as a muse for artists, poets and musicians.

"Phil took what he liked—from art, religion, astrology—and created his own system," recalled fellow artist Bill Carmel, who created

the death mask. "On his birthday in 2003, he told me, 'I love life and life loves me—everything is as it should be.'"

Stephen Sanfilippo, who saw Hellsten several times a week, recalled that he might be planning on any given day to get some paint from Kelly-Moore, to download photos on the computer, or perhaps to take over the Internet.

"I loved escaping with him," said Sanfilippo. "He was playful and confrontational. He said something was not done until it was overdone."

Sanfilippo said that Hellsten taught him to be tenacious, which led to the opening of the Pioneer Art Gallery on Hartz Avenue.

"Who thought you could ask someone to use their building for free and they'd do it?" said Sanfilippo with a laugh.

"What a loss I have felt this week without Phil," he continued. "And his loss is so much more; there were so many ideas he left on the table."

Another friend looked out at the crowd and said, "This is his masterpiece, all of you who are here."

One woman talked about how Phil owned nothing and yet he had everything, as people seemed to just give him food, drink, paper, paint and whatever else he needed to live well and create.

"I didn't know what he was talking about most of the time—but he was an inspiration to me," said Patricia Dillon, co-owner of the Kevin Milligan Gallery in downtown Danville. ■

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## Montessori preschool moving to St. Isidore

Planning Commission OKs 32-student program

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Plans for the installation of a Montessori preschool facility near St. Isidore Catholic School were approved recently by the Danville Planning Commission.

Starlight Montessori Preschool went before the Planning Commission requesting a land use permit that would allow them to operate a school housing not more than 32 students on the property owned by St. Isidore on La Gonda Way.

Starlight owner Parisa Lobianco told commissioners that she started the program in her home, but during the past eight years she has been renting space at Danville Congregational Church. Lobianco said currently she has 59 students enrolled at the school, but there are never more than 30 there at one time.

One concern posed by the commission was the effect the additional students would have during the al-

ready crowded drop-off and pickup schedule at St. Isidore. Staff explained that the hours of the Montessori school would be different from those of St. Isidore School for a staggered start to avoid added congestion.

During the public hearing on the issue a concern was raised by Robert White, a neighbor living near the proposed preschool facility. As a stipulation of the permit, parents would drop off and pick up their children using a turnaround at the rear of the building. White had several questions on using that short loop.

"I'm a little confused. Is it 32 per day or 32 per session? I live right next to it so I'm living right next to a drive-through," stated White.

He added that the loop is conducive to a few cars, but a number of larger family size vehicles lining up could be unmanageable.

"Why aren't they using the loop in See **PRE-SCHOOL** on Page 9

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# Danville businesses might get SBA assistance

*Loan program to award \$250 million to get through rough times*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A new program through the Small Business Administration may provide local business owners with the capital they need to get through the next several months.

As of June 15, the SBA has been accepting applications for funds under Americans Recovery Capital (ARC).

SBA spokesman Steve Bangs said it has a quarter billion dollars nationwide that it will be disbursing to applicants as a means of helping them to survive the economic downturn.

"What we're doing," Bangs said, "is providing them a means of making payments on existing debt obligations they have that they may be having trouble fulfilling right now because of financial hardships."

Danville Economic Development and Special Events Coordinator Jill Bergman said that while the town is not participating directly in the ARC program, it is holding information sessions for merchants, and the details of the ARC program will be disseminated to attendees.

Applicants can receive up to \$35,000, which they can use solely for the purpose of making principal and interest payments on existing qualified loans. Bangs explained that such a loan would be a line of credit with a bank or other financial institution, a term loan or other debt incurred as a result of business.

ARC loans are deferred payment loans. After the six months

of loan disbursement, the borrower have one year where they don't have to make any loan payments at all. They then have five years to pay off the principal only.

Bangs said there are no set limits to how many loans can be made per geographic area, however they are limiting the number of loans a specific lender can make. Lenders are nationwide and through many institutions.

Any person interested in seeking a loan should contact the bank their business is working with to see if it is participating in the project. If the bank is not participating, then the person can contact the SBA to find another local institution that is taking part.

Processing the loans can take up to 30 days.

Bangs said that the ARC loans are 100 percent guaranteed by the SBA and have no SBA fees associated with them.

The program is set to end Sept. 30, 2010. Bangs said it is possible that it could either be renewed or made permanent by congress.

"It could end prior to the sunset date if enough loans are made that it used up all the funds," he said.

"However if the funds are not depleted by Dec. 31, 2009, it will continue on."

The ARC loans are expected to be helpful to Danville merchants, who are already getting some assistance from the town as part of their own stimulus package approved earlier this year. ■



JANET PELLETIER

The Balloon Samba ride now at the Alameda County Fair was purchased by Butler Amusements from Michael Jackson at Neverland in September.

## Michael Jackson ride a hit at County Fair

*Carnival owner tells about buying Balloon Samba Ride at Neverland*

By JANET PELLETIER

Michael Jackson's Balloon Samba ride for children is a big draw at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, which runs through July 19. Butler Amusements, which has about 60 attractions at its carnival, bought the ride last year from Neverland.

Earl "Butch" Butler said he purchased five amusement rides in September from Michael Jackson, whose recent death shocked mil-

lions of fans around the world. Butler said he first met the pop icon years prior to that and has been to Jackson's sprawling Santa Barbara County estate half a dozen times.

Neverland, built around the Peter Pan theme, is something Butler said you have to see to believe—a magical wonderland of sorts.

"He had a train and train station just like the one in Disneyland," Butler said. "It's the most gorgeous thing I've seen. It's even better than Disneyland."

Aside from the Balloon Samba, which mimics a hot air balloon ride, Butler also owns a ride from Neverland Ranch that's currently displayed at the Coney Island fair in New York and three rides that are being restored.

"I have a scooter bumper car of his that has his picture all over it and on the cars; they have the moon insignia with the little boy sitting on the moon, built especially for him," Butler said. "He had it enclosed and inside were mirrors, black lights and music. When you're in there, it's like you're in another world."

Butler said he's getting ready to put that ride up for sale on eBay.

Jackson was the consummate performer in every aspect of his life and always aimed to please, Butler said of his encounters with the singer. He remembers one time he was visiting when Jackson arranged for one of his worker's sons to meet an idol.

"He had a gate guard whose son told him Kobe Bryant was his favorite player," Butler said. "Well, Michael gets on the phone, calls up Kobe and the next day, he was there and he played basketball with the kid and gave him a shirt and

everything.

"He would go out of his way to make people happy," he added.

Aside from taking children on his amusement rides, Jackson also encouraged them to watch movies in a custom-built 49-seat movie theater. Butler said there were two enclosed areas with hospital beds and oxygen tanks suited for children with illnesses.

"He had a candy counter there and he would let the kids have all the candy they wanted," Butler said.

Since Jackson's death, it's unclear what will become of Neverland Ranch, which was at one point in jeopardy of being sold and possibly torn down, but Butler said he hopes it will be preserved for the public to see.

"This really needs to stay like it is," he said. "It's an amusement park and it could be a shrine. I saw it as a place people would want to come and see because it's kind of a mystery spot. It's gorgeous what he had done and the money he spent."

Butler, who lives in San Jose, started Butler Amusements 38 years ago with his father and he said it is now the largest show in the West with more than 135 rides. His peak time of the year is coming up later this summer when he'll have rides featured at three state fairs—California, Washington and Idaho.

The Balloon Samba is operating in the children's section of the carnival rides and Butler said a sign has been put up to let visitors know it was an original to Neverland Ranch.

The fair runs through July 19. For information, visit [www.alameda-countyfair.com](http://www.alameda-countyfair.com). ■



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## BUDGETING

Continued from Page 5

concern, and Calabrigo said all of the signs point to a further dip before there is a recovery.

"I don't know whether we're at the bottom of the curve or if we can expect to see it go lower. From reading the Wall Street Journal and the research I've been doing I'm led to believe that California is lagging behind the rest of the country in the way this recession is affecting us," he said.

The moves they've made with the town financial plan and their goal of keeping a closer eye on the state's movements are expected to help Danville stay above water until the situation improves.

"We haven't exhausted all the chips in our pile," Calabrigo said, "in case the situation gets worse. That way we have something there to offset things." ■

## PRESCHOOL

Continued from Page 7

front of the building for pickup and drop-off?" he asked. "Anyone who's really in a hurry isn't going to go to that back corner parking lot."

Lobianco responded that the number of trips per day would be around 40 since there were a number of children who are all-day students. She added that they are using the back instead of the front loop to avoid adding to the congestion on La Gonda Way.

Commissioners asked White what he felt could be done to mitigate any impact that the preschool might have on him. "More landscaping," he replied.

Commissioners unanimously approved the preschool request. ■

## DIABLO VIEWS

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## Fresh fruit in the garden and what to do with it

This year I beat the deer and the birds to the apricots. Well, not all of them but enough to eat my fill and make one pie. My tree isn't terribly prolific, but since I'm the only one in my family that's crazy about apricot pies, I only bake one a year and eat the other cots straight. If my crop is especially sparse, I supplement it with apricots from the farmers market to make the pie, but I swear the ones from my tree are 10 times sweeter and juicier. Maybe because they're so fresh.

My family likes apricots, but I'm the only one who loves them. Besides being delicious, apricots are low calorie and loaded with vitamin A, which is good for your skin and hair. Plus they're a good source of fiber and are full of potassium. I don't mean to sound like a spokeswoman for the apricot industry but I happen to love them and wish my family shared in my enthusiasm. Everyone does eat at least one piece of pie when it's fresh out of the oven—a la mode of course. But I was raised to love apricots.

My mother grew up on a fruit ranch in San Jose, where my grandfather raised apricots, cherries and plums. My Uncle Frank took over the ranch. When I was a little girl I spent many summer days at the ranch with my mother and older sister there they "cut cots" to be laid on

the drying tables. I would play with my cousin Shirley, who is two years younger. Shirley and I would meander through the orchards until we reached the train tracks. We'd step up onto the track and walk carefully, one foot in front of the other, pretending to be tightrope walkers. When we heard the train coming we'd jump aside and as the train whizzed by we'd wave at the conductor and he'd wave back. I don't remember anyone ever once telling us, "Don't get hit by the train." It would have made me nervous to let my kids wander through an orchard by themselves and play on train tracks but parents had more faith in their kids back then.

Although we lived in a neighborhood we always had apricot and peach trees in our back yard, and my mother made apricot jam and pies each summer. Maybe that's why I love the pies so. When we first moved to our house off Livorna Road 28 years ago, my Uncle Frank planted an apricot tree in our back yard, down the hill that is otherwise mown weeds and a flagstone path. Then he stopped by every year and pruned it until we moved away for awhile. He died a couple of years ago at the age of 98.

Since Uncle Frank stopped ministering to it, the apricot tree hasn't done so well but we don't worry about it too much because we don't need a bigger crop just for me. I enjoy seeing the apricots appear each spring then grow increasingly colorful in the sunlight as I walk down the path to enjoy watching my crop ripen. As the apricots turn golden, the birds begin to peck away at those at the top of the

tree, and the deer eat all the low ones. I'm told the squirrels help themselves too, although I've never seen it. I try to pick the ones in the middle, and they sure taste good.


Some people have more fruits and vegetables growing in their yards than they can eat or give away. Anna Chan from Clayton, aka the Lemon Lady, has stepped in to help. Anna is somewhat famous for taking the extra produce from private gardens and delivering it to places like the Monument Crisis Center and the Food Bank. She has personally harvested or collected more than 6,000 pounds of local fruits and veggies throughout the county.

Anna now has local help, an Alamo woman named Mira Goetsch, who offered to collect surplus produce from her neighbors and deliver it. The two foodies ran into each other at Whole Foods Market in Walnut Creek and Anna began to tell Mira about growing gardens for the hungry.

"Half an hour later, Mira, with a generous spirit and glowing kindness, was inspired to also help those less fortunate," reported Anna at thelemonlady.blogspot.com. "A few miles between us, she living in Alamo, and I in Clayton, didn't hinder our ability to share ideas and coordinate to help the greater hunger cause. Rather, it is wonderful that Mira lives a few towns away! She is willing to pick up produce from her neighbors and outreach in Southern Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon."

Mira has also delivered dozens of seedlings for donation to the Children's Community Garden of Concord, and others. If you want to make a fresh produce donation to Mira to be delivered to food pantries, call her at 216-1145 or e-mail Mira@mirahomes.com. Maybe next year I'll have surplus apricots.

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



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## GUEST OPINION

BY GRACE SCHMIDT

### Valley may lose Regional Planning Commission

There has been recent talk, sparked by Contra Costa County, about an Alamo MAC—a County-appointed Municipal Advisory Council of seven Alamo residents who would advise the County about land use, roads, planning, parks and beautification in Alamo.

The MAC would be supported by office staff of the District III County Supervisor, and all MAC information and communications would go through that staff. The MAC, as an entity, would not be allowed to represent itself to any organizations except County government and LAFCO. It would have no authority.

At the same time, there has been little talk about the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission—the existing, County-appointed body of seven San Ramon Valley residents, including three from Alamo, who review land use and planning applications and issues in the unincorporated Valley.

Unlike the MAC, the Planning Commission has authority. It makes decisions about Alamo developments and subdivisions; it makes the only legally required recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors on re-zoning and changes to the General Plan for Alamo; and it is legally obliged to notice neighboring properties about development applications. It is staffed by professional planners.

Now the County has made a recommendation to eliminate the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission. But doing away with the Regional Commission and its inherent authority will create a power void in Alamo that the MAC,

with no authority, cannot fill. So, if the County follows through with its recommendation, which institutions or interest groups will likely fill the void?

Candidates are the County and those developers who share the County's need for new revenues from new development. Their newly enhanced power would extend to Alamo zoning, commercial development, residential lot sizes, and the County General Plan for Alamo. Also at risk would be roads in Alamo that offer opportunities for traffic mitigation, which is needed to justify new development in other unincorporated areas.

Currently, the fate of the Commission will be discussed at a Board of Supervisors meeting within weeks—no date is set so far.

If Alamo residents want to keep the Regional Planning Commission, they need to send their message to the Board of Supervisors now—to the District 3 County Supervisor at 820-8683, or to all five supervisors at the office of the Clerk of the Board at 335-1900. Otherwise, the authority of the Commission will be ceded to the County Planning Commission—seven countywide residents, including just two from the San Ramon Valley, and none from Alamo. The County Commission, taking a more remote view, might well support new development over sustainable property values of existing development, and conceivably value regional traffic flow over the iconic, tree-canopied beauty of Danville Boulevard.

In its own self-interest, Alamo needs to be talking about the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission, not just about the MAC.

*Grace Schmidt is a 24-year resident of Alamo, a former Congressional District 10 Field Representative, and was a candidate for Alamo Town Council.*

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### The cult of Danville

It only takes a drive through downtown Danville on Fourth of July Eve to realize the truth: Danville is a cult. Its Independence Day parade has followers that get caught up in the excitement of reserving their viewing space with a single-mindedness that is amazing to behold.

This fervor of residents is what made it a good place to open a newspaper. Every good cult deserves a mouthpiece. Some people have complained on Town Square, our forum at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com), that the laws about chairs are not enforced and that people don't play fair. Sitting at the perfect spot to watch the parade is an emotionally charged issue.

Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley announced several times that chairs could not be left until 6 p.m. the night before the parade. We ourselves observed that the rules were broken, with expensive chairs even being chained in place. People seem to have as much fun reserving their places as they do watching the parade.

When the crowds gather on the Fourth they are a friendly bunch, visiting and joking with their temporary parade "neighbors." They go home even more enamored with their hometown than they were before. It's the cult of Danville.

## LETTERS

### Preserving trees

Dear Editor:

I read with amusement Mayor Newell Americh's comment in this week's paper ("It's official: Coast redwoods off protected list") where he said, "I think Danville has done an outstanding job of preserving our open space, trees and natural beauty." Didn't he, along with the entire Town Council, encourage, endorse and approve the development of both the Weber and Elworthy properties? Count the number of trees they saved there. Seems to me the mayor has a short memory!

**Jim Simpson**  
Danville

### Parade from the inside

Dear Editor:

When I drove from San Ramon High to the Livery Mercantile on

the evening of July 3, I knew I would see canvas and plastic chairs of every style, shape and variety. That's a sacred Danville tradition.

Always before I had been a spectator, letting families stand in front of me so the kids could see. This year was different. On the morning of July 4, I marched in the parade with a dozen or more members of the Danville-Alamo AAUW, which advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. We honored our Tech Trek campers and celebrated the 40th anniversary of our branch.

At 8 a.m., we gathered around Dan and Pat De Jesus' 1966 Mercedes and eventually made our way onto Danville Boulevard. The chairs were now filled with cheering, flag-waving, hotdog-eating families. We gave out beads and candy and waved to those sitting on rooftops. What a pleasure to walk through this colorful sea of Americana.

Seeing this parade from the inside gave me a new perspective on the families I'd let stand in front of me. I watched 30,000 or more spectators with much admiration as I marched behind the AAUW banner. Multiple generations of cheering faces made our broken economy, the war in Afghanistan, and the concerns about global warming seem far away. With so many towns canceling celebrations this year, it feels good to live in a town where sponsors keep this empowering tradition afloat.

I hope you get a chance to march with one of the participating groups. It will give you a new perspective on the people, the energy and the spirit that makes this town such a great place to live.

**B. Lynn Goodwin**  
Danville

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Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 229

#### Staff Reporter

Geoff Gillette, Ext. 234

#### Editorial Assistant

Amory Gutierrez, Ext. 221

#### Contributors

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

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#### Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 124

### HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

**Phone:** (925) 837-8300**Fax:** (925) 837-2278

#### E-mail:

[editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com)**Display Sales e-mail:**[sales@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:sales@DanvilleWeekly.com)**Classifieds Sales e-mail:**[ads@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:ads@DanvilleWeekly.com)**Circulation e-mail:** [circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com)**Editorial e-mail:** [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com)

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## POLICE BULLETIN

### Police report spike in DUI arrests

Whether it was summer vacation or an extended Fourth of July weekend, there were a number of drunken drivers out on the streets last week. And a number of them landed in jail.

Danville Police Sgt. Kevin Daley said that of the 11 arrests made in Danville over the course of last week, nine of them were for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"That is a very high percentage," Daley said. "We normally average around five a week, so we nearly doubled that." Daley said that from Jan. 1 to June 29, police have made 127 arrests for DUI.

He noted that four of last week's DUI arrests were made after the drivers were involved in an accident.

"When you're at a solo vehicle accident you always look for some sort of intoxication related cause. Especially at night," he explained.

Signs of an intoxicated driver include red eyes, water eyes, slurred speech and an unsteady gait.

"These are all things we look for," Daley said. "The big one we look for is the odor of alcohol."

Daley had no explanation for why there were so many arrests within several days.

"With all the education we have out there, with the DUI enforcement nights, you'd think people would know better," he said.

Ironically, of the other two arrests made last week, one was a person wanted on a warrant for, you guessed it, DUI.

—Geoff Gillette

## POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

### Sunday, June 28

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Front St. and Hartz Way at 1:37 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, arrest, on El Rio Rd. at 2:27 a.m.
- Animal cruelty on Fostoria Way at 11:53 a.m.
- Burglary on Merrilee Place at 2:08 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Estates Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:16 p.m.

### Monday, June 29

- Stolen vehicle on Laurel Dr. at 5:26 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Front St. at 8:02 a.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Allegheny Dr. and El Capitan Dr. at 4:08 p.m.
- Vandalism on Rose Ave. at 4:37 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 30

- Residential burglary on Camino Ramon at 4:46 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Sycamore Circle at 11:51 a.m.
- Vehicle motorist assist, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 1:05 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on El Cerro Blvd. at 2:24 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 9:48 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 1

- Vandalism on Linda Mesa Ave. at 10:28 a.m.

- Warrant, arrest, on La Gonda Way at 11:03 a.m.

- Residential burglary on Montego Dr. at 4:41 p.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Sky Terrace at 11:46 p.m.

### Thursday, July 2

- Auto burglary on Gwen Ct. at 7:25 a.m.
- Vandalism on Mary Ct. at 9:08 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and El Pintado Rd. at 11:14 a.m.

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:29 a.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run, arrest, on Ashley Circle at 8:51 p.m.

### Friday, July 3

- Auto burglary on Fostoria Way at 12:47 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Park N' Ride, at 1:26 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:38 a.m.

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and El Cajon Dr. at 2:16 p.m.

### Saturday, July 4

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Crow Canyon Rd. and St. George Rd. at 1:33 a.m.
- Vandalism on La Vista Way at 11:46 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Crow Canyon Rd. at 3:55 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Front St. at 6:13 p.m.
- Battery on Glen Arms Dr. at 10:14 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Ralph Wallace Chase

Ralph Wallace Chase, a resident of Alamo, died July 1 at the age of 87.

He was born Dec. 18, 1921, in Southern California and attended Pasadena Junior College and USC. He retired after 30 years at Lawrence Livermore Lab. He was also a 44-year member of Danville's Community Presbyterian Church where he was a deacon, elder and member of the choir. He was also active as a commissioner of the San Francisco Presbytery.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy, his two sons and their wives and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were scheduled at 4 p.m., Friday, July 10, at Community Presbyterian Church. Donations are welcome for the CPC Missions.

### Lawrence F. 'Larry' F. Ramirez

Lawrence F. "Larry" Ramirez, a resident of Alamo, died May 13 at the age of 85.

He was born July 7, 1923, in San Gaspar, Jalisco, Mexico. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. The love of his life was his family.

He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Ofelia Ramirez; son Albert Ramirez and his wife Irene; son Philip Ramirez; daughter Lisa Ramirez-Ivy and her husband Bill; and son Ronald Ramirez. He is also survived by five grandchildren; brother Art Ramirez; sisters Ann Johnson and Mary Fragoso; and countless nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving son Lawrence Michael Ramirez.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to charity of choice or Hospice of the East Bay. A celebration of his life was held at a private residence in Alamo on July 4.

### 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 proud of wife Mary Burke's career as an artist, and he enjoyed attending her art events and selling her paintings at art fairs. He liked a

good joke better than anyone.

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.

### Josefina Barragan de Santana

Josefina Barragan de Santana, a resident of Danville, died June 19 at the age of 88.

She was born March 27, 1921. She lived a full life and enjoyed cooking, gardening and crocheting.

She was the loving wife of the late Jose Santana for 57 years. She is survived by her seven children: Antonio Santana and his wife Maria Elena, Laura Porras, Irma Santana, Carlos Santana, Leticia Santana, Jorge Santana, Maria Vrionis and her husband Michael Vrionis. She is also survived by her sisters, Gregoria and Sylvia; her brother Manuel; 16 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held June 27 at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Donations may be made to the Milagro Foundation, P.O. Box 9125, San Rafael 94912.

### Elizabeth R. Kendall

Elizabeth R. Kendall, a resident of Danville, died June 16 at the age of 100.

She was born Oct. 15, 1908, in Sodus Point, N.Y., and at an early age moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., where she was raised by her grandparents. During World War II, she sang in a trio and worked in a parachute factory. She met Hal A. Kendall and they were married for 50 years before he died in 1980. While living in Michigan they opened a restaurant and she made pies that became a standard at family holidays for decades after they moved to Southern California. She and Hal were active in Eastern Star in Garden Grove where she was a Worthy Matron and a Grand Deputy. She worked as a bookkeeper until she moved to Walnut Creek in 1980. She lived in Ross-moor for 25 years before moving to Danville. She loved playing bridge and volunteered at the library and at the tea room. She loved to travel and in her 70s and 80s visited Australia, Switzerland and Alaska and enjoyed a number of ocean cruises.

She is survived by 21 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. A memorial service celebrating her life was held June 26 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek.

### Lillian Curno

Lillian Curno, a resident of Danville, died June 22 at the age of 91.

She was born July 11, 1917. She served as a pharmacist mate in the U.S. Navy during WWII, stationed at Treasure Island, then moved on to work for Eden Hospital in Castro Valley for many years. She also had been a long time resident of San Lorenzo.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank E. Curno. She is survived by her daughters, Maureen Curno (Don) of Boulder, Colo., Kathleen Brosnan of Hayward, and Colleen Negi (Randy) of Danville; and five grandchildren.

A celebration of her life was held June 26 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Memorial donations may be made to Danville Rehabilitation or to the American Heart Association.

### Neva Eppler

Danville resident Neva Eppler died June 15 at the age of 82 after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

She was born May 18, 1927, in Oakland. She attended Crocker Highlands School and UC Berkeley, earning a B.A. in political science in 1949. She was also a director of American College Women's Club. In August, 1954, she married Gene Eppler, whom she had met in the Berkeley Ski Club; two years later they moved to Orinda and started their family. In 1966 they relocated to Danville, where her father was developing one of Danville's earlier subdivisions. Her early career in the 1950s included eight years with the East Bay Municipal Utility District, founding church secretary for St. Mark's Methodist in Orinda, and assistant secretary at San Ramon Valley Methodist in Alamo. She started and directed "Y Wives," a division of the YWCA to bring young women of differing cultures and ages together through physical exercise. She earned her teaching credential and taught as a substitute teacher in the Dublin School District. She worked in the visitation program for nursing homes including Tamarack Manner in Danville. In the 1980s she was an active member with the Alameda County Adult Literary Project and other local programs, including Friends Outside where she was a director. She was an active volunteer to adult English-assistance programs and to elderly outreach programs within the Methodist Church. An avid skier, she won various downhill ski awards. She loved the great outdoors, entertaining, and was a loyal Cal Bears fan.

She was preceded in death by her husband Gene in 2005 and her brother Bill Armstrong in 2008. She is survived by her sister Chelta Armstrong May; her sons William (Elaine) and Bruce (Rene); three nieces, two nephews, eight grandchildren, and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

A memorial service was held July 1 at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, Alamo. Memorial donations may go to Kaiser Hospice.



# Living strong, giving back

*Danville cancer survivor raises \$400,000 for charities*



Bob Hammer, two-time cancer survivor and founder of the Have a Ball Foundation, sits with son Josh, 5. Hammer and wife Kim were able to conceive Josh even after having one testicle removed due to the cancer and a rigorous course of chemotherapy.



The Hammer family and son Josh. At right, Lance Armstrong F

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

**N**ext Friday, more than 300 golfers will be converging on the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course to take part in the fifth annual Have a Ball golf tournament. The event, the brainchild of Danville resident Bob Hammer, raises thousands of dollars each year to benefit several different cancer programs.

Hammer's involvement stretches back not just years, but decades as the disease has touched him from an early age.

"My Mom died on Christmas Day of cancer when I was 9," he explained. "She was sick by the time I was 4 or 5 so the earliest I can remember is her being sick. That never leaves you."

Twenty years later, married to wife Kim and with a child on the way, Hammer discovered a small lump on one of his testicles.

"I was in the shower and I felt this thing, just the size of a small pebble. But I went to the doctor to get it checked out," he said.

Doctors confirmed that it was the early stage of testicular cancer and within days Hammer had surgery to have the testicle removed. Follow-up tests were run within six months to see if any cells had come back but it appeared that he had caught it in time.

The following December though, Hammer began to experience back pain. He said he didn't attribute it to cancer since his last checkup didn't show any signs. "I was coaching track, I was playing softball three nights a week. I had a clean bill of health."

A week before Christmas, he collapsed and was having difficulty breathing. An examination showed that the cancer had returned and spread into his chest cavity. He was placed on an extremely rigorous regimen of chemotherapy.

"I went in five days in a row for six hours. And then I'd have two weeks to recover," he explained.

The 26 rounds of treatment lasted until April,



PHOTOS COURTESY BOB HAMMER

gets a little camera time with Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong (center). At left are Bob Hammer and Kim Hammer and their daughter Shayna, 8. Have a Ball has donated thousands of dollars to the foundation and last year was named the second highest donor in the world.

leaving the athletic 30-year-old weakened and sick.

"Our daughter Shayna was a year old then," Hammer said. "So for a few months there, Kim was taking care of two kids because I was pretty much useless."

Kim Hammer said that having Shayna was a godsend in keeping Bob fighting to make it through his chemo. "She was the light at the end of a long tunnel that he needed to keep going."

Doctors told Hammer not to get close to the 13-month-old while he was undergoing chemo because of risk of germs and infection from the toddler.

"We both decided that what is the point of living or fighting to live if you can't even be with the ones that mean the most to you," Kim recalled. "He spent every waking moment with her—runny nose, sticky hands and all—and I truly believe her love and his love for her is what got him through the thick of it."

It was during this time that Hammer also found himself on the path to making a difference in the lives of others suffering from the disease. A friend had given him Lance Armstrong's book about his similar battle with cancer. This gave Hammer the motivation to be a part of the cycling star's annual "Ride for the Roses" in Texas.

Still convalescing, Hammer set to work making phone calls and asking for donations and managed to raise \$15,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. That set him in motion for the next stage of his life.

"Raising over \$10,000 put us in an elite group that would get to meet Lance," recalled Hammer.

The day after his final chemotherapy session, Hammer and his wife Kim flew to Texas to meet Armstrong.

"I'm 30, bald, ghost pale white and a day out of treatment. The rest of these guys are all corporate guys who paid their \$10,000 to meet Lance. Kim and I stood out like a sore thumb," he said with a laugh.

Others at the event took the Hammers and introduced them to

## Who benefits

Charities that benefit from the Have a Ball Foundation

- Camp Okizu
- Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland
- Sean Kemmerling Testicular Cancer Foundation
- Susan G. Komen—For the Cure
- Wellness Community of Silicon Valley
- First Descents
- CancerClimber Association
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- Ullman Cancer Fund for Young Adults
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- UCSF Cancer Resource Center
- The Second Opinion

Armstrong and to the cyclist's oncologist, Dr. Craig Nichols. This chance meeting would change the Hammer family's lives.

"The masses in my chest and back had shrunk and I was scheduled for surgery at Stanford," said Hammer. "The surgery would have prevented me from ever having any more children."

Hammer told Nichols his story, and the doctor replied that perhaps it wasn't necessary to have the surgery after all.

"It was his opinion that the masses were scar tissue," remembered Hammer. "That Monday I faxed him my medical records, and that night he called my doctor and told him I didn't need the surgery."

Hammer followed Nichols' advice and chose not to have the surgery. "A little over a year later we conceived Josh (now 5) naturally. Which in and of itself is rare in testicular cancer cases. Long story short, my son is here today because of the Lance Armstrong Foundation," he said.

Hammer remained active in fundraising for the foundation but continued to look for "the big thing," the event that would really make a difference. After taking over the reins of his company's annual cor-

porate golf outing, he knew he'd found a winner. He set about creating the Have a Ball Testicular Cancer Foundation plus started working on the first Have a Ball golf outing.

To get the wheels rolling he spoke with Steven Seaweed, a disc jockey for 107.7 "The Bone." Having the station willing to help promote the fledgling event gave Hammer a needed in with corporate sponsors and the tournament grew from there.

"In our first year I hoped to raise \$25,000," said Hammer. "I raised \$50,000." Of that, \$35,000 went to the foundation and the rest was spread among other charities. Since then the amounts have increased until last year when it raised \$195,000. Hammer said even with the economy down he's expecting to still pull in around \$150,000 in the July 17 event.

At the same time the tournament went from having 80 sponsors involved to more than 200, including AMGEN, UPS, Genentech and United Airlines.

The last two years Have a Ball has been the winner of the annual "Live Strong Challenge," and last year was No. 2 in the world for donations to the Armstrong Foundation. Hammer added, "And we only donated half our funds to them."

The group also helped out 15 different charities, and each day they hear from other entities that need financial assistance. Hammer said his plan is to keep helping as much as he can.

"It just doesn't end, because there's so many people affected by cancer," he said. "It's just stems of a tree that keeps growing and growing."

As the event grows in popularity, so does talk of branching it out to other venues. Hammer said he's had discussions with the Lance Armstrong Foundation to hold the Have a Ball tournaments in other states, to help raise funds and raise awareness of testicular cancer.

Hammer seems amazed by it all.

"I'm just a guy from Danville," he said. "I'm just trying to give back a little bit and it just got bigger than we anticipated." ■

'Faz is a place you'll keep going back to'

Jim Wood, SF Examiner



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## Parent photographers

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



## Yankees play to the top

The Yankees prevailed in the June 8 championship game for the Tassajara Valley Little League AA American League, playing the A's in windy conditions. The Yankees staged a remarkable three run bottom of the sixth inning comeback rally and won the game 9-8.

Team members are (standing, l-r) Coach Mark Akabane, Coach Clint Taylor, Dennis Thompson, (second row) Chase Taylor, Richard Ressa, Connor Lynn, Matt Gyolai, (third row) Joe Major, Sean Clare, James Morizono, Arman Affifi, Brendan Hopkins, (front) Jack Reed, Reyn Akabane and Stephen Thompson (lying down).



## Yankees prevail in two thrilling playoffs

The Tassajara Valley Little League Farm 8 Yankees won the Championship after two thrilling playoff games. In the semifinals, the Yankees beat the Angels, 21 to 20, in the bottom of the sixth with a walk-off bases-loaded single by John Karczewski (driving in Dylan Lawlor). In the Championship game, the Yankees won again in the bottom of the sixth inning with a walk-off single by Beau Garratt (driving in Josh White), 20 to 19.

This was truly a team effort this year with the Yankees getting contributions from everyone. Isiah Ishikawa provided solid line-drive hitting; Drew Fryer provided timely hitting; Jack Lineberry's nifty fielding enabled the Yankees to get key outs; Caden Kol provided a solid, all-around game that was tough for opponents to contain; Landon White was an outstanding lead-off hitter; Nico Bellig was the Yankees most improved hitter; Grant LeDoux provided great left-handed hitting; and Colin Cindric provided inspirational hustle and enthusiasm.

Team members are (front row, l-r) John Karczewski, Caden Kol, Drew Fryer, Grant LeDoux, Isiah Ishikawa, Nico Bellig, Colin Cindric, (back) Josh White, Dylan Lawlor, Beau Garratt, Landon White, Jack Lineberry; Coaches Brian Cindric, Keith Garratt and Gerry Karczewski.



## Undefeated Slammers defeat Cru's Crushers in final

The San Ramon Slammers defeated the Cru's Crushers in the championship game of the 680 Pony League 11U Playoffs at Twin Creeks Fields in Sunnyvale the weekend of June 6-7. The San Ramon Slammers were the only team in the 680 league to go undefeated during the entire season. They went undefeated at the tournament with outstanding pitching by Kyle Spackman, Vinny Margiotta, Trent Ruckman, Austin Tobian, Dominic Espinoza and Brandon McIlwain.

After the championship game, the two teams posed together with Slammers (back row, l-r) Coach Steve Ruckman, Kyle Spackman, Riley Asbell, Anthony Trucco, Brandon McIlwain, Alex Tsuruda, (middle) Dominic Espinoza, Vinny Margiotta, (front) Alex Roy, Austin Tobian, Evan Seidell, Trent Ruckman. Not pictured, Ray Soderman. Cru's Crushers are (back) Gordon Faust, Dante Peretti, Tate Alley, Conner Binning, Connor Bruce, Coach Matt Crudale, (front) Davis Bender, Trip McComas, Dawson Vasconi, Tyler Larson, Will Dennis, Chase Geertsen.



## Mustang Mavericks second in Farwest Regionals

The U12 D1 gold Mustang Mavericks took second place at the Farwest Regional Soccer Championships in Lancaster. Team members are (back row, l-r) Hailey Balma, Ariana Zamora, Courtney Clark, Leah Emerson, Summer Stamatates, Madeline Gibson, Chelsea Barry, Mallory Hromatko and coach Curt Cox, (front) Clare Da Silva, Celina Gines, Kathryn Rodd, Megan Melara, Morgan Pearce, Marissa Savoldi, (lying down) Christina Nuti.



“I’m not a tomboy. But, I’m not a girly girl either. I’m somewhere in the middle.”

Mychele Miller

*Middle schooler makes a name for herself in the world of Junior Drag Racing*

## Ms. speed demon

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Imagine strapping yourself into a drag racer. Not one of those Indy 500 behemoths, but a real hot rod. Needle thin, an inch off the ground. A rocket on wheels, reaching speeds of over 70 miles per hour in the space of a few moments. Shooting down a 1/8-mile raceway in eight seconds, the scenery a blur with only that checkered flag in sight.

Now imagine you’re an 11-year-old girl doing all that, and you’ve just met Mychele Miller. The Alamo preteen has made a splash in the last several months on the local racing scene, driving her own drag racer in events put on by the National Hot Rod Association’s Junior League.

Drag racing wasn’t something Mychele ever really considered, but fate conspired to introduce her to that world through two separate events. The first being when her father Dean brought home a dragster that he’d picked up from a friend.

“I didn’t know what we were going to do with it,” he said. “I thought maybe she could practice with it in the driveway.”

Mychele said, “It was a surprise for me. He was like, ‘Do you want this?’ And I said, ‘Yeah!’”

Next she saw a made-for-TV Disney movie called, “Right on Track.” The film was about Erica Enders, an 8-year-old who learned about drag racing from her dad and went on to become a champion racer in the NHRA Jr.

“It just looked really interesting,” Mychele said. “It’s the speed. They go really fast.”

Dean Miller was excited that his daughter was showing an interest in the sport, but Mychele’s mother, Andrea, was less enthused initially.

“I immediately called my pediatrician to find out if it was safe,” she said.

When the pediatrician didn’t warn the family off, they began working on the process of getting the car ready to race and giving Mychele the time to practice. But the road to competition was not without a few bumps.

“I didn’t know anything about the sport at that time,” Dean said, “and the car we had wasn’t the right car for Mychele.” The car they had ran on gasoline and could only get up to speeds of around 40 miles per hour. In order to be competitive it needed to go nearly twice that fast.

Dean worked on the car, learning what he needed to know in order to convert it from running on gasoline to running



GEOFF GILLETTE

Stone Valley Middle School student Mychele Miller has the best of both worlds. Here in Danville she takes cooking classes, loves the color pink and adores Juicy Couture. At the Sacramento Raceway she gets to drive 75 miles an hour racing dragsters in the NHRA’s Junior Division.

on alcohol. But once it was ready to go, they ran into another snag.

“Mychele was growing by leaps and bounds,” recalled Andrea. “Seven inches in two years. We found out she was too big for the car.”

This didn’t stop them from taking the refurbished ride out for some test runs. Last year, Mychele went to the Sacramento Raceway and ran the car six times to get used to handling the vehicle and understanding how to keep it straight on the track.

Then the family purchased a new car and last March, Mychele competed in her first race in Bakersfield, the NHRA Jr’s 10-12-year-old class, and she came in second place.

Mychele has since competed in a number of races both at her home track in Sacramento and other tracks around the area and is ranked No. 6. She said that part of the fun of competing has been the actual races, but she also enjoys getting to know the other drivers.

“They’re like a second family,” she said. “We stay up late, we talk.”

An interesting dichotomy in the young Stone Valley Middle School student is that even though she drives dragsters, it’s not all she’s about.

“I’m not a tomboy. But, I’m not a girly girl either,” she said. “I’m somewhere in the middle.”

She dances, and was on a competitive team but had to sacrifice it for driving. With a smile, she talks about the things she enjoys: the color pink, shopping and designer brand names.

Since beginning her training in dragster driving, Mychele has been down the track more than 100 times. And both parents say it has been a deeply enriching experience for the youngster.

“It’s teaching her so much,” said her mother Andrea. “It’s teaching her to take driving very seriously. She’s seen what can happen and she’s very careful.”

Dean said that the change he has seen is in her approach to the sport. “She turns into this focused, serious girl.”

Most of the racing is done with Dean and Mychele. He said he enjoys that one-on-one time with his daughter.

“Just watching her grow, and getting that time to hang out with her,” Dean said. He then added, “I hope she wins, but that’s not our goal. Our goal is to have fun.” ■

## ART SCENE



BY JOHN A. BARRY

What is art?  
Diverse sources  
offer a variety  
of answers

My quest for an answer to the age-old question "What is art?" led me first to the Oxford English Dictionary. That tonnage of tome offers 16 definitions and sub-definitions, most of which emphasize skill.

For example: "the application of skill to subjects of taste, as poetry, music, dancing, the drama, oratory, literary composition and the like" (no specific mention of the visual arts).

Webster's online also focuses on the skill aspect. The Random House Unabridged gets to the visual: "works of art collectively, as sculptures, painting, or drawings." The OED and Random House mention the production of what is "beautiful"; the latter book notes "aesthetic principles and criteria."

So much for book learnin'. I headed off to a reception at Kevin Milligan's gallery on Hartz Avenue. I'd drawn the conclusion that here would be gathered artists and art lovers who could enlighten me.

Milligan, who at the time ran the only remaining gallery in Danville after the demise of several others, said simply that art is "freedom of expression."

A sample of other artistic assessments follows:

■ "Art is anything that sells."  
—*The late Phil Hellsten, evoking the spirit of another sly iconoclastic artist, Andy ("Art is anything you can get away with") Warhol*

■ "Art is something somebody enjoys. It's a very personal thing. It has to do with subject, colors, scenery, whatever."

—*Ed Lang, East Bay, reception visitor*

■ "Nobody knows."  
—*Yumiko Irsik, Danville, painter*

■ "A process in which the person creating it has feelings toward it and hopes that the people who are viewing it have feelings toward it too—hopefully positive ones."

—*Melinda Kahler, Danville, painter*

■ "An artist's passion for everyone to see and appreciate. The artist sharing what they love and enjoy with everyone."

—*Francine Trengove, Sacramento, reception visitor*

■ "Art is anything that is created by an individual. Anything they choose to create is art. It may be many different mediums."

—*Chris Milligan, twin brother of Kevin*

■ "Art is an expression of the way you see the world. A way to share your perceptions with other people. So is wine!"

—*Reception bartender Bob Smith ("world's most common name, and that is my name, by the way")*



PHILIP HELLSTEN

Kevin Milligan (left), owner of the gallery on Hartz Avenue, and his twin brother Chris give their definitions of art at a gallery reception.

■ "My wife's favorite subject."  
—*Gary Urani, Walnut Creek, reception visitor*

■ "Art can be anything that evokes emotion from an individual, whether it's intended emotion or not."  
—*Ron Trengove, Francine's husband*

Because I posed the question at a visually oriented venue, answers that weren't general in nature tended to skew toward the visual.

Two responses specifically alluded to auditory, verbal, and performance media:

■ "Art is an expression of the human spirit. It's usually visual, but it can be auditory."

—*Fred Turner, Danville, poet and businessman*

■ "Art is a representation in visual, verbal, and performance media of a great idea."

—*Bill Carmel, Danville, sculptor, painter*

Stinted in the discussions was the lowly scribe. In an attempt to remedy that oversight, I went to Bob Eastwood, a poet and artist from San Ramon who moderates monthly meetings of local poets.

He said: "Art is the product of the 'making' mind. But not simply so. The artist is not only a maker but also a creator of novelty. The process of creation in the making mind is one of synthesis, play and the resolution of abstract thought.

It involves trial and error, revision and re-initiation. The artistic creation is a reach toward originality, something new, made from the craft of shaping experience, emotion, sensation, thought and ultimately risk. An artist's craft may involve tangible matter or language—such as sculpture or poetry—but the process of creating art is the same. The question of what makes for the quality of beauty in art is one of aesthetics—a separate question, and a more complex one."

I'm going with Warhol.

—*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.*

## THE WINE GUY



BY DON COLMAN

Californitalian,  
here I come

2006 *Vino Noceto, Sangiovese*

The big six grapes are what sell and they sell a lot. The big six grapes are three red and three white. Reds are made up of Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot and Syrah; while the whites are Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. These grapes dominate the market.

I am always looking for different wines to try to get a different perspective and always willing to move away from the big six. I have searched other countries to find different wines—including France, Italy, Australia, Chile and even Canada. This time I wanted to take a look at something I call "Californitalian" wine. A grape which I love, that is traditionally grown in Italy, and now can be found in parts of California. Not one of the big six grapes, but a very nice grape by its own right—Sangiovese.

Typically, Italian wines are very dry and loaded with earth tones.

That is part of the old world soil and grapes. Contrast that to California where most wines are loaded with fruit scents and soft on the palate. Take an Italian grape and plant it in Californian soil and get the Californitalian wine. To find this wine, you need to look out to the Central Valley for two reasons. First, Sangiovese grapes like warmer climates. Second, the big six grapes are so popular and profitable; wineries will not dare plant a grape other than the big six in land that supports any of the big six.

The wine I found is the 2006 *Vino Noceto, Sangiovese* (\$17). In true Sangiovese form it was a garnet color (think of a shade or two away from red brick) and it's not nearly as dark or heavy as big Syrah. The Sangiovese is a softer grape meaning the nose is not nearly as overpowering as Merlot. In this case, Noceto has done a brilliant job matching Californian fruit with old world earth. What you get is a scent that is full of cherries followed by an earthy smoke scent. A very complex, yet enjoyable nose.

On the taste, it is a very light and silky wine that has soft tannins. In

Take an Italian  
grape and plant  
it in Californian  
soil and get the  
Californitalian wine.

addition, the wine is bitter/sweet—stimulating two different reactions in a very short timeframe. All of this leads to a very nice and well rounded wine that most drinkers would truly enjoy.

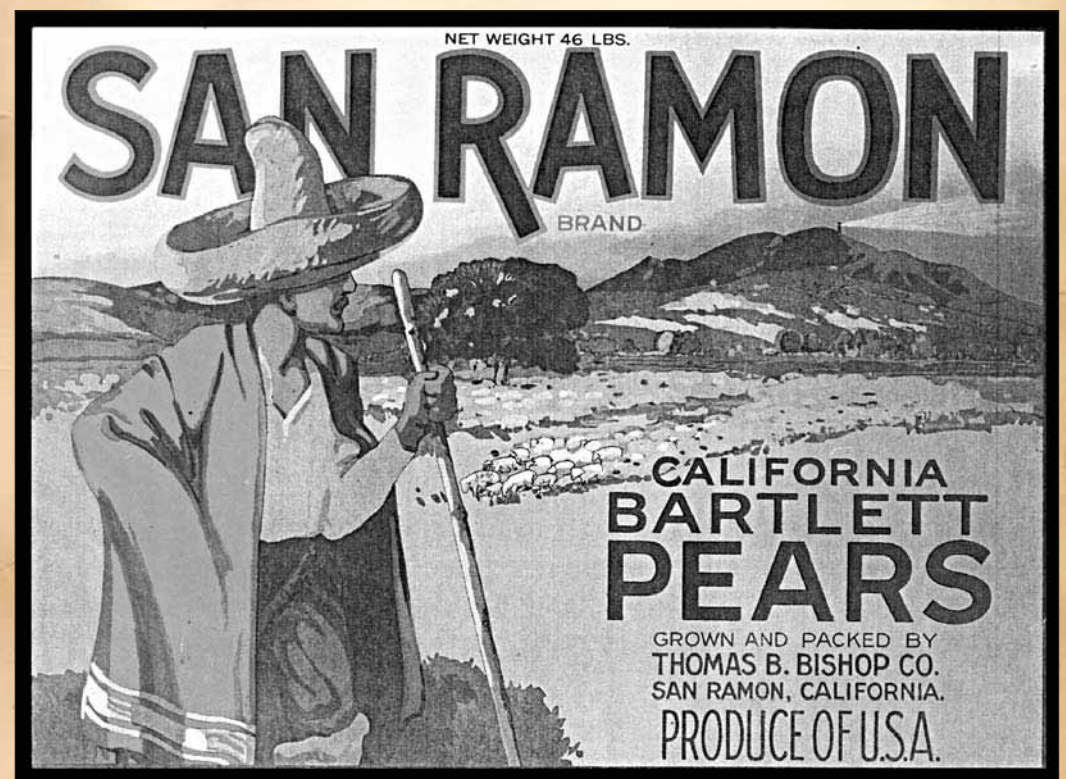
The trick with a Sangiovese is to match it to food. In this case, pairing it with typical Italian food (tomato based pasta, pizza, etc.) works exceptionally well. It also would match well with white meat or a fuller bodied fish. Try to avoid spicy or heavy food as this wine could easily be overpowered.

All in all, a very nice wine. Drink up and enjoy this Californitalian experience. Until next time, Cheers!

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

## PRESENTING THE PAST

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

**Fruit labels as art:** In 1895, Thomas Benton Bishop acquired 3,000 acres of Norris Ranch land in San Ramon, probably as payment for legal work when Margaret and William H. Norris were divorced. It covered a large area and over the years was planted in walnuts, pears, grapes, plums and peaches. Livestock included Shropshire sheep and cattle, with 400 hogs tended along "Mutton Alley." This label was applied to crates of pears shipped from the ranch.

## OF NOTE



### Hospital appreciates fundraising

Peyton and Ryan DeLaney of Danville were given certificates recently from Children's Hospital Oakland for the money they raised from their joint birthday party April 3 where they asked their guests to bring donations to the Foundation in lieu of gifts.

"Due to an amazing show of generosity by their friends and family, Peyton and Ryan were able to deliver \$2,445.00 in donations to the Foundation," said their mother Kathleen M. DeLaney.

Peyton, who just turned 7, is a first-grader at Montair, and Ryan, who just turned 5, is in preschool at the Dorris Eaton School.

"As a mom, I am proud of my kids and their decision to forgo receiving gifts in favor of raising money for such a great cause. And, as a Danville community member, I am just as proud of (and grateful for) the overwhelming generosity our community demonstrated in their donations," said DeLaney. "Finally, as a parent, I am grateful to the teachers who have taught my children to think about and value community service, which inspired the fundraising effort by my kids.

### Hospital Foundation gives scholarships

The San Ramon Regional Hospital Foundation has granted \$1,000 scholarships to two Junior Volunteers at San Ramon Regional Medical Center. Patricia Costacurta, a senior at California High School, and Theresa Mailander, a freshman at Sonoma State University, were the recipients of this year's scholarships.

Costacurta volunteers in the

emergency room and has an outstanding academic record. She has been admitted to Stanford University, where she will study biochemistry as part of her goal to become a physician. Mailander is in the pre-nursing program at Sonoma State and would eventually like to work as a nursery or labor and delivery nurse. She also attended Cal High, graduating in 2008, and had an excellent academic record and many community service activities while there.



### Recognizing Discovery contributions

Danville Rotary awarded Thom Martin (left) Rotarian of the Year at a recent end-of-year awards luncheon. Outgoing President Bob Gibbs presented the award to Martin for "his outstanding contributions to Rotary and to our community." Martin, who is executive director of the Discovery Counseling Center, was recognized for his commitment to supporting many youth oriented programs and organizations in the San Ramon Valley including the Challengers Baseball Jamboree, Interact and Del Amigo High School. Martin was also instrumental in raising more than \$10,000 in donations for Danville Rotary's Youth Impact Fund.

Lawson Bill has been inducted as the new chairman of the board for Discovery, which has been a community-based nonprofit organization for more than 35 years, providing the greater San Ramon Valley Community with affordable and high quality mental health services. Call the center at 837-0505.

BOB CHACE

## TAKE US ALONG



**Joining the family:** The Miller family embarks on a 10-day Alaska cruise leaving from San Francisco to Victoria, Canada, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, Alaska with (rear, l-r) the driver Caesar, Steve and Michele Miller, Lois Belmessieri, Ron Miller, Jeff Miller, Tim and Laura Miller, Suzanne and Dave Ambrose, (front) grandchildren Camryn, Teigan, Katie, Ryan, Michael holding Henry and Hannah.



### Favorite fish wrap

Lexie Burton, Brenna Deane, Michael Deane and Petey Burton went on a three-day tuna fishing trip some 140 miles southwest of San Diego aboard the long-range fishing vessel Royal Polaris. The kids didn't forget to catch up on their hometown news!

**More travel photos, PAGE 22**

## Art

**WORKS OF PHILIP HELLSTEN** Join in celebrating the life and works of Philip Hellsten, a wonderfully eccentric artist, inventor, writer, philosopher and beloved friend of Danville. Free exhibit runs Thursday-Sunday, July 9-30, with a reception from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, July 16, at Link2 Fine Art Gallery, 730 Camino Ramon, #196, Danville. Also showcases works of 20 other collectible local artists.

## Auditions

**'JACK AND THE BEANSTALK'** AUDITIONS San Ramon Community Theater will hold open auditions for ages 16 and older for "Jack and the Beanstalk" from 7-10 p.m., Monday, July 20 with call backs from 7-10 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, at Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Visit [www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org](http://www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org).

## Camps

**HEALTHY PLANET WILD TIMES SCIENCE CAMP** Come to Lindsay Wildlife Museum this summer for an exciting summer camp session about how to help keep planet Earth green from 1-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, Aug. 3-7, at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$125 for members; \$150 for non-members. Call 935-1978.

**SAN RAMON VALLEY VOLLEYBALL CAMP** Learn to play volleyball and have fun. The youth camp will be held July 20-23; skills camp from Aug. 3-6; and tune-up camp from Aug. 10-13. The camps will be held at San Ramon Valley High School. Cost is \$130. For information, e-mail [srvvball@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srvvball@sbcglobal.net) or call 838-7595.

## Classes

**FREE BRAIN GYM INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP** Discover Brain Gym

and a love for learning from 1-2:30 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at a private residence in Orinda. Understand why learning is not all in your head. This event is free. Call Pam Whitman at 253-1223 or visit [www.transitionpoint.org](http://www.transitionpoint.org).

## Clubs

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

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

**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](http://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](http://www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com).

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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

### COMMUNICATION ARTS NETWORK

This club will host Gary Bosley of Marketing Solutions Group at its monthly meeting 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, July 14, at Forli Ristorante, 3160 Danville Blvd., Alamo. He will talk about "Current Cell Phone and Smart Phone Technology." Cost is \$20. Visit [www.commartnet.org](http://www.commartnet.org).

### SPEAKER ON ISRAELI PALESTINEAN ISSUES

The TriValley Democratic Club presents Dr. Mike Harris from the "Voice for Israel" to discuss the situation in Israel, from 7-9 p.m., Monday, July 20 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Call 451-4303.

## 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. Lavay 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](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

### SAN RAMON SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Bring the family for a perfect summer evening at San Ramon's Summer Concert Series at 5:30 p.m., Sundays, in Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. These concerts are free. Future bands include David Martin's House Party on July 12; Aja Vu on July 19; Garratt Wilkin and the Parrot Heads on July 26; Mersy Beach on Aug. 2; and Orchestra d'Soul on Aug. 9. Call 973-3200.

**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IN LIVORNA PARK** Alamo Parks and Recreation

presents the 2009 Summer Concert Series in Livorna Park with four concerts from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fridays. Future concerts will take place July 17, July 31 and Aug. 14. These concerts are free. Visit [www.alamore.org](http://www.alamore.org).

## Events

### 15TH ANNUAL BANCROFT

**SCULPTURE EXHIBIT** A juried art exhibit will be displayed in the Ruth Bancroft Garden until July 19, located at 1552 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. The garden is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 944-9352 or visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

### ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

The Alameda County Fair is open from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; \$6 for children ages 6-12; and free for children under 6 years old. For details on today's activities, visit [www.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.alamedacountyfair.com). The fair runs from July 1-19, but is closed on Mondays. Some days it may have special admission rates.

### ALOHA GOLF CLASSIC

Aloha Golf Classic will be held from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Monday, July 20, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$195 per player; \$1,000 for a foursome; \$50 for dinner only. Call 837-4400 or visit [www.danvillea-reachamber.com](http://www.danvillea-reachamber.com).

### AN ADOPTION FAIRE

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host an adoption fair 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.tv-ar.org](http://www.tv-ar.org).

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING

Learn how to earn an immediate and residual income by starting your own business from 7-8 p.m., every Thursday, at Hotel Sierra, 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. These meetings are free. Call Roy at 548-3511.

### EARLY CALIFORNIA HISTORY: "WHAT YOUR FOURTH GRADE TEACHER NEVER TOLD YOU"

Come to Forest Home Farms Historic Park to enjoy an evening of laughter and enlightenment while exploring little known incidents and stories of early California history with speaker Wells Twombly from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 17 at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. To register for this event, call 973-3200.

### FARM CITY

Local farmer and food blogger Novella Carpenter celebrates her publication of her memoir, "Farm City," at 7 p.m., Friday, July 17, at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call 837-7337.

**HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOWS** Danville's Hot Summer Nights



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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.

**LOCK AND KEY SINGLES DANCE**

Women get locks and men get keys and the fun comes when you match them up and possibly win a prize from 8-11:45 p.m., Friday, July 24, at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd. Cost is \$20. Adults of all ages welcome. Visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

**MICHAEL MORGAN TO DIRECT FESTIVAL OPERA'S "FAUST"**

Performances of "Faust" are scheduled for 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 8 and Tuesday, August 11; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16 at Hofmann Theatre, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA. Tickets cost \$39 - \$100; \$10 discount for ages 18 and under. Tickets can be ordered now by calling (925) 943-SHOW or purchased online at www.LesharArtsCenter.org. For more information, call 944-9610.

**NETWORKING LUNCHEON** A monthly networking lunch will be held with guest speaker Steve Mann who will talk about "The Science of Profit," from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, at San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane. Cost is \$25 for San Ramon Chamber members; \$35 for non-members, including lunch. Call 242-0600 .

**SENATOR DESAULNIER STAFF AT FARMERS MARKET**

Sen. Mark DeSaulnier's staff will be at the Danville Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, July 11, to answer questions about state services and provide informational materials. The farmers market is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 942-6082.

**Exhibits**

**MODEL TRAINS** Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents its Model Trains exhibit until July 26. The museum is located at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call the museum for hours at 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.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 person, 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.

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**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](http://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 O.P.O.A. family trusts. Call Corinne at 878-5200.

**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.sryymca.org/events/summer-fun-dog-show-information](http://www.sryymca.org/events/summer-fun-dog-show-information).

## Kids and Teens

**EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY** Danville Library will host numerous children's programs including "Hard Day's Knight," at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 18; cowboy storyteller Lariat Larry at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18; and Timothy James, a comedy magician, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

**PRESCHOOL ROCK 'N ROLL DANCE PARTY**

Preschools are invited to come and dance to the sounds of classic rock from the 50s and 60s at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at the San Ramon

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Library, 100 Montgomery St. This event is free. Visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**BUY REAL ESTATE! DON'T BUY LAWSUITS!** Every investor will benefit from Attorney Ben Harvey's free talk on safely investing in Pre-Foreclosures, Short Sales, Trustee Sales, REO's & Subject To's from 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 15 at Radisson Hotel Dublin-Pleasanton, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Must register to attend. Call 272-4667 or visit [15july.eventbrite.com](http://15july.eventbrite.com).

**COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE AND CANCER** Learn safe and effective natural remedies to use during and after cancer treatment from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 18, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients and their support. Call 933-0107.

## Literary Events On Stage

**INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL** San Ramon Library will host the 18th annual International Storytelling Festival at 7 p.m., Mondays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27, at the library, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon. Trails and Tales will be on July 6; Michael Katz on July 13; Clara Yen on July 20; and Olga Loya on July 27. Visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

## Miscellaneous

**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** During July, the Red Cross will host weekly drawings for a \$100 gas card to all blood donors. To participate, sign-up to donate blood from 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, July 25, at the Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd., Danville. Call (800) 448-3543 or visit [www.help-savealife.org](http://www.help-savealife.org) (code: WARPEDVIP).

**WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC DANVILLE** Meet in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville, at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 11, for a walking tour of historic Danville. An experienced docent will lead a tour through the downtown to sites that played roles in Danville's history. A Friday evening walking tour will take place at 6:15 a.m., Friday, July 17, led by Councilwoman Karen Stepper, and meeting in front of the Village Theater, 233 Front St.

**'GUYS AND DOLLS'** Diablo Theater Company's STARS 2000 presents "Guys and Dolls" starring Danville residents Lindsey Scanlon as Adelaide, Allie Garavaglia and Nick McKenna at 7 p.m., July 24- Aug. 2, at San Ramon Valley High School, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$14; \$13 for students and seniors. Call 943-7469.

**FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** "The Comedy of Errors" will be performed as part of Shakespeare in the Park at 7:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 17-18, 25-26 and Aug. 1-2, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton. These events are free. Call 931-5340.

**SHAKESPEARE'S "TAMING OF THE SHREW"** Women's Will presents "Taming of the Shrew" at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at the Town Green in front of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Visit [www.womanswill.org](http://www.womanswill.org).

**STUDENTS' NEW PLAYS** Eugene O'Neill Foundation is sponsoring the second annual Studio Retreat for young actors and playwrights at the Old Barn at Tao House, Danville. Guided by theatre professionals, 12 students will conclude the week-long retreat with a free performance in the Old Barn at Tao House at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 12. This event is free. For reservations, call 820-1818.

## Seniors

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

**CANE-DO SELF DEFENSE FOR SENIORS** The Town of Danville Recreation Services is offering a new self defense class for seniors from 3:30-5 p.m., Mondays, Aug. 3-31 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$15 per session. To register, call Danville Community Center at 314-3400.

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

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

## Spiritual

**SCRIPTURE DAY: THE BOOK OF REVELATION** Dr. William Creasy, Ph.D., will host "Scripture Day: The Book of Revelation" from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Participants will go on a guided tour of the apocalypse, in full color and Dolby sound. Cost is \$75, including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

## Sports

**WRESTLING FOR YOUTH** Danville Youth Wrestling Club Inc. will host drop-in wrestling for youth of all levels with trainers Bill Ramos, Dave Santos and Matt Albinson from 5:30-7:30 p.m., every Wednesday until July 29, at the San Ramon Valley High School Wrestling Room. This event is free.

## Support Groups

**HOSPICE OFFERS SUPPORT** Hospice of the East Bay offers support groups and workshops including LGBT Grief Support Group from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, July 16-Sept. 10; and Widow and Widower's Support from 6-8 p.m., Mondays, Aug. 10-Oct. 5; all at 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. Groups and classes are offered for a fee, but it can be waived; call 887-5678.

**NEWLY FORMED PROACTIVE GROUP FOR WOMEN** Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets from 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail [dsashby@msn.com](mailto:dsashby@msn.com).

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit [www.dvig.org](http://www.dvig.org).

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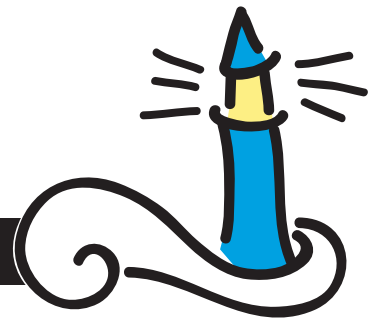
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or the ACADEMY most people have no idea how to start. I provide those tools. Call Tim now for info on our next class 925-890-6280

**PALMISTRY CLASSES and READINGS**  
[www.palmistryschool.com](http://www.palmistryschool.com), [www.partyup-almist2.com](http://www.partyup-almist2.com) 925 2499154

## 133 Music Lessons

\*SINGING LESSONS FOR ALL AGES!

Voice Studio of Cherie Michael  
Call 925-462-4419  
for further information and to reserve your weekly lessons.

## HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES

Try Something New!  
Call Bennetta Heaton  
(925) 820-1169  
- located in Danville -

## PIANO LESSONS

Piano Lessons in Pleasanton.  
Call Courtney (925)600-1573

## 135 Group Activities

"GIRLS NIGHT IN"

CROSSFIT SAN RAMON!

Lock & Key Singles Dance

SEWING CAMP! [www.KidzKraftz.com](http://www.KidzKraftz.com)

Women's Trip to Spain Oct. '09

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

## 140 Lost & Found

Lost key w/reward

## 155 Pets



**Toy Maltese pure bred puppies**  
TeaCupMaltesepurebredpuppies-\$950.00  
650 257-7812 Please email Linda-west-baymusic@comcast.net



## 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

2 new STRUTS for 86-91 Honda Accord & Prelude - \$70 for 2

BMW 2003 330 ci - \$18,705.00

Celica TRAILER HITCH 2000-20005 E Trailer model 24691 - \$65

**Mitsubishi 2007 Spyder Eclipse**  
Fun, Sporty ride. 22,500 original miles, one owner, 6 speed manual, pearl color with gray leather interior, gray top (top recedes into body of car). CD changer, heated seats, below Kelly's Blue Book. Great condition!

Pace Arrow 1989 MotorHome - \$11,000.00

PORSCHE 1987 911 TARGA - \$22,999

## 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Donate Vehicle**  
Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupons, Your Choice. Noah's Arc, No Kill Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deduction. Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate Your Car**  
Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy and Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

## 203 Bicycles

Giant HalfWheeler child's bike - \$125

## 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3038 Warrenton Court, Sat, July 11, 8am -1pm

Pleasanton, 3127 Chardonnay Dr., July 11, 8-3

Pleasanton, 3146 Boardwalk Street, Sat, July 11, 8am - 1pm

Pleasanton, 3564 W Las Positas Blvd, July 11, 8-11

## 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Royal Doulton figurine - \$45

## 220 Computers/Electronics

**Brand New Laptops & Desktops**  
Bad Credit, No Credit! No Problem Small Weekly Payments - Order Today and get FREE Nintendo Wii game system! Call Now! 800-840-5439 (AAN CAN)

**BRAND NEW Laptops & Desktops**  
Bad credit, No credit - No Problem Small weekly payments - Order & get FREE Nintendo Wii system! 1-800-816-2232 (AAN CAN)

**GET A NEW COMPUTER**  
Brand Name laptops & desktops  
Bad or NO Credit - No Problem  
Smallest weekly payments available.  
It,Ao's yours NOW - Call 800-803-8819 (AAN CAN)

## 240 Furnishings/Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

Bedroom Set - \$ 2,500

COMFORTERS - \$25.00

FILE CABINET - \$45.00

MEDIA CABINET - \$375.00

**Miscellaneous Items**  
Wood Cabinet Hutch (\$750);Table with (6) chairs (\$550);computer cabinet(\$175);desk,bookshelf(\$25); Wingback chair(\$45)

Moving Sale

Stanley computer desk - \$450

## 245 Miscellaneous

**Desk**  
Electric height-adjustable sitting to standing. Be more productive, save your back. [www.GeekDesk.com](http://www.GeekDesk.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Sawmills**  
From only \$2,990 - Convert your Logs To Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. [www.NorwoodSawmills.com/300n](http://www.NorwoodSawmills.com/300n) -FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363 x300-N. (Cal-SCAN)

Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25.00

Trash Can-Blue - \$6.00

## 250 Musical Instruments

**Piano-US-MFG-Cable Spinet**  
Excellent Condition  
Priced To Sell \$1,000.00  
925-820-6990

## 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Relaxing Spa/Jacuzzi - \$895



## 330 Child Care Offered

Au Pairs / Great Childcare

## 340 Child Care Wanted

**Child Care Needed**  
Child Care position available immediately within the State Pay rate = \$750/wk; car will be provided for work or personal use.Reply to raychelbride@yahoo.com.

## 345 Tutoring/Lessons

**At Least \$2K-\$5K/Month**  
Copy this proven 3-step system just once a month and make at least \$2-5k! (imagine copying it once a week!) See what other people are making now! [www.WinWithRuss.com/cmr](http://www.WinWithRuss.com/cmr) 858-472-5714. (Cal-SCAN)

Elementary School Tutor

**Math & Chemistry Tutoring**  
Retired Scientist now enjoying TUTORING High School & College STUDENTS in algebra, geometry, pre-calculus & chemistry. CALL DOUG @ 925-858-5842

**Math Tutoring**  
High School math tutoring: Alg., Geo., Pre-Calc.  
Get ready for finals. Work on raising your grades. Ret. teacher, Cal. credential. 925-462-3807

## 550 Business Opportunities

**All Cash Vending**  
Be Your Own Boss! Your Own Local Vending Route. Includes 25 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

**Business Opportunity**  
in the Christian market. Concessions available for only one person per city. Keep 100% of the revenue. Go to [www.ChristianLeadersWanted.com](http://www.ChristianLeadersWanted.com) or call 1-866-894-5222. (Cal-SCAN)



## 560 Employment Information

**\$600 WEEKLY POTENTIAL\$\$\$**  
Helping the Government PT. No Experience, No Selling.  
Call: 1-888-213-5225 Ad Code L-5. VOID in Maryland and South Dakota. (AAN CAN)

**Apprenticeship - Paid**  
Apprentice HS grads ages 17-34. Electronics, engineering, communications, etc. Great benefits. Relocation available. Call Mon-Fri 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

**Computer Work**  
Work from anywhere 24/7 processing nutritional supplement orders. Great pay. Will train. Bilingual a plus. Request info online: [www.KTPGlobal.com](http://www.KTPGlobal.com) or 1-800-330-8446. (Cal-SCAN)

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

**Fresh Out of School?**  
Now Hiring Independent, Reliable, Self Starters Looking to Learn, Earn and Travel for the Summer. \$500 Sign-On Bonus. Bernadette: (888) 375-9795 (AAN CAN)

**Heavy Equipment Training**  
Job placement assistance. Call 888-210-4534. Northern California College of Construction. (Cal-SCAN)

**Int'l Cultural Exchange Rep**  
Earn supplemental income placing and supervising high school exchange students. Volunteer host families also needed. Promote world peace! 1-866-GO-AFICE or [www.afice.org](http://www.afice.org) 1-800-340-8404 x2001 (AAN CAN)

**MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED**  
Earn \$150 to \$300 Per Day. All Looks, Types and Ages. Feature Films, Television, Commercials, and Print. No Experience Necessary. 1-800-340-8404 x2001 (AAN CAN)

**Petroleum Supply**  
Up to \$15,000 BONUS. Keep the Army National Guard's Watercraft, Aircraft, Trucks and Tanks rolling! Expand your skills through career training. [www.NationalGuard.com/Careers](http://www.NationalGuard.com/Careers) or 1-800-Go-Guard. (Cal-SCAN)

**Teacher Vacancies**  
Middle School Education 6-8 Math; High School Math, Speech Pathologist-Prince Edward Schools, Farmville, VA - (434) 315-2100. Website: [www.pecps.k12.va.us](http://www.pecps.k12.va.us) Closing: Until filled. EOE. (Cal-SCAN)



## 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**A LABOR OF LOVE**  
ANTIQUe Furniture Restoration & Repair  
Recycling the Past into the Future  
"All Inclusive"  
Impeccable Quality  
&  
Integrity of Workmanship  
Conveniently located in Pleasanton (925) 462-0383

## 624 Financial

**American Tax Relief**  
Settle IRS Back Taxes \* Do You Owe Over \$15,000? If So... Call us Now! \* Free Consultation\*. For Less Than What You Owe! Stop Wage Garnishments! Remove Bank Levies Tax Levies and Property Seizures! Stop Payment Plans That Get you Nowhere! Settle State and Business Payroll Tax Problems Eliminate Penalties, Interest Charges & Tax Liens! \* Settle IRS Back Taxes \* No Obligation! Confidential! Call American Tax Relief 1-800-496-9891 \* Free Consultation \* (Cal-SCAN)

**Credit Card Relief**  
Free Consultation \* Save Thousands of Dollars. Out of Debt in Months! Avoid Bankruptcy! Credit Card Relief. NOT A High Priced Consolidation Company or A Consumer Credit Counseling Program. Call Credit Card Relief 1-866-479-5353. \* Free Consultation \* (Cal-SCAN)

## 645 Office/Home Business Services

**Classified Advertising**  
in 240 Cal-SCAN newspapers for the best reach, coverage, and price. 25-words \$450. Reach 6 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Display Advertising**  
in 140 Cal-SDAN newspapers statewide for \$1,550! Reach over 3 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. [www.Cal-SDAN.com](http://www.Cal-SDAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**News Release?**  
Cost-efficient service. The California Press Release Service has 500 current daily, weekly and college newspaper contacts in California. FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6010. [www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com](http://www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**CREATIVE WRITING SERVICES**  
FREELANCE WRITER/BLOGGER: sandra kay: WriteousMom.com



## 715 Cleaning Services

**"EUROPE" housecleaning**  
Anybody can clean but how the job is done that's a different story. Call Edyta for estimate 925 497 2267

**MAID TO SERVE YOU**  
Professional Maid Service  
**RECESSION 2009 RATES! plus \$35 OFF - first cleaning**  
Excellent Local References  
Move-In-Outs or Regular Services  
Call Today at (925) 249-0399

## 719 Remodeling/Additions

Steve M Evans Construction

## 757 Handyman/Repairs

**AFFORDABLE HOME REPAIRS**  
• Carpentry • Electrical •  
• Drywall Repairs/Texturing •  
• Tile • Crown Molding •  
[www.A-ZCompleteHomeRepairs.net](http://www.A-ZCompleteHomeRepairs.net)  
925-989-6179/510-733-5582

## 759 Hauling

**Hauling & Cleanup Service**  
Residential/Commercial \*Yard & Garage Clean-Up, Dump Runs  
Appl & Furn , construction demo removal. Low Rates/Free Est 925-899-5655

## 771 Painting/Wallpaper

**\*JOE'S PAINTING & HANDYMAN\***  
Free Est. / Reasonable Prices  
No Job Too Small!!!  
925-200-7333 Lic#624542



## 801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2,250

## 805 Homes for Rent

**ALL AREAS - HOUSES FOR RENT**  
Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: <http://www.RealRentals.com> (AAN CAN)

Dublin, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1550/month

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1100/month

**Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA**  
Pleasanton 4 bdr 2-1/2 bath 2-story home on quiet culdesac. New kitchen, central air, 2-car garage. Great location. No pets (925)462-3055

## 809 Shared Housing/Rooms

**ALL AREAS - RENTMATES.COM**  
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Rentmates.com>. (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$650.00

## 825 Homes/Condos for Sale

**\*\*\*FREE Foreclosure Listings\*\***  
Over 200,000 properties nationwide. LOW Down Payment.  
Call NOW! 1-800-446-1328 (AAN CAN)

**Spectacular 108 Acre**  
NH Lakefront Estate & Horse Farm. The Most Amazing Property Available Anywhere. \$5,000,000. See Pictures At: <http://ViewWebPage.com/4PYS> or Email: [bendbenson@gmail.com](mailto:bendbenson@gmail.com) (AAN CAN)

Danville, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$499,900

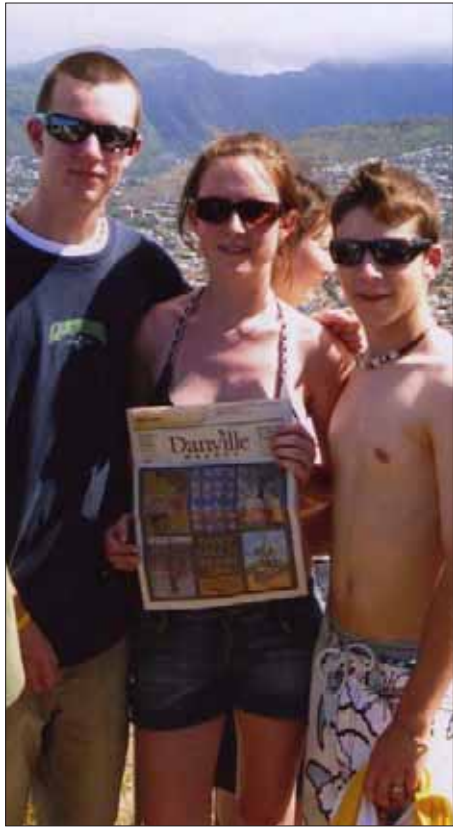
Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$979,000

San Ramon Open House, 3 BR/2 BA - \$430,000

## 840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

**3 BR Condo - Big Island, Hawaii**  
3 BR, 2 baths condo available to rent. Sleeps 6-8. Located on the 16th Fairway of the North Course at Mauna Lani. The unit has a gorgeous view towards Mauna Loa with luxury furnishings and high-end appliances including barbecue. 10 minute walk to private beach club and other resort amenities. Rates starting at \$200 per night (Rates negotiable for extended stays). Please contact us for available dates and more information at(415)333-4063 or [kkeegans@aol.com](mailto:kkeegans@aol.com).

# TAKE US ALONG



**High heights:** Johnathan and Melissa Ivarson and Eric Hotaling hiked to the top of Diamond Head in Hawaii last August and didn't forget their Weekly.



**Fishy reading:** Mick, Jarrod, Rhonda and Kyle Stangover caught some fish and caught up on hometown news while in Kodiak, Alaska.



**Going home:** Nick Houmis who recently went to visit his family in Chios, Greece, didn't forget his Danville Weekly. The 16-year Danville resident spent his early years on the island and came to the U.S. when he was 10.

## FOGSTER.COM

Pine Crest Cabin Near Lake  
Huge Deck, Sleeps 11  
Available 6/27 - 7/18  
\$1000. per week  
925-837-2870

### 850 Acreage/Lots/ Storage

**Colorado 40 Acres**  
Bank Foreclosure \$29,900 Clean Title, Warranty Deed. Enjoy 300 days of sunshine. Rocky Mtn. views, utilities. Excellent Financing! Call Today! 1-866-696-5263 x4938. www.ColoradoLandBargains.com (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico**  
Land Foreclosures! From as low as \$19,995 for 10+/- acre, phone, electric close, views. Guaranteed financing, low down! Going Fast! 888-812-5830. www.SWPProperties.com (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico 140 Acres**  
\$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)\*

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Darling Dimitri

This adult, neutered male housecat named Dimitri has two things going for him: He is super-friendly and he is gorgeous! Dimitri's soft fur is chocolate brown and his unusual coloring is complimented by beautiful yellow-green eyes. Add to that his sweet disposition and we say Dimitri is a real treat! Dimitri loves to be petted on his head and if you stop he will bump his head against your hand to ask for more. If you are looking for a very special friend to join your family, visit Dimitri (pet # 85981) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

# Marketplace

## Danville Weekly

### General Contracting

**HEIER Construction** (925) 989.3809  
CA LIC#837402  
**Additions/Remodeling  
Plumbing/Electrical**  
Your reputable local contractor  
www.HeierConstruction.com

**HoneyDo** HANDYPERSONS, INC.  
LET OUR WORKER BEEZ DO IT FOR YOU!  
**Commercial/Residential**  
• Repairs • Installation  
• Restoration • Tenant  
• Assembly Improvements  
**Receive \$25 off  
Service of \$250  
or more for 1st time  
customers**  
(925) 846-0400  
www.HoneyDoHandypersons.com  
LIC# 922264

**NASTY GROUT**  
"MAGICALLY RESTORED"  
Tired of Moldy, Missing, Dirty, Cracked Grout? We will Clean, Seal, Repair, Re-Grout, Change Grout Color, Re-Caulk and Eliminate Mildew.  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
10% OFF YOUR JOB WITH THIS AD  
**GROUT WIZARD®**  
(925) 866-5000

### Computers

Computer Help  
**Tri-Valley PC MEDIC**  
2007-08 Pleasanton Weekly  
"Best Computer Repair"  
2006 Diablo Magazine  
"Best of the East Bay"  
**Ken Cook**  
"I Make House Calls!"  
Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training  
More info/rates: www.trivalleypcmedic.com  
M-F 8a-8p / Wknds & Hols 9a-6p  
Lic #011068 - PCC, PDA & BBB  
Call 485-9040 or 989-7722

### REAL ESTATE

**Mike Fracisco**  
REALTOR  
Fracisco Realty & Investments  
Residential, Commercial  
& Property Management  
direct: 925-998-8131  
www.MikeFracisco.com  
DRE#01378428

**Tony Leavens**  
REALTOR®  
Hometown  
GMAC Real  
Estate  
direct: 925-426-3886  
cell: 925-487-1427  
e-mail: mrtonyleavens@msn.com  
www.tonyleavens.com

Windermere  
**John DeMarinis**  
Realtor  
925.984.1867  
510.681.3215 cell  
jdemarinis@windermere.com  
www.JohnDeMarinis.com

**INVESTMENT  
REAL ESTATE  
COMPANY**  
Mike Carey, Broker  
925.963.0569 Cell

### Business Opportunities

**MULTI-LEVEL MARKETING  
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**  
**PROMOTING  
HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
• Be in on the ground floor  
• Excellent new products  
• Great compensation plan

CALL 925.640.7756  
Billmason6367@gmail.Com

### Accounting/Bookkeeping

**NEED HELP  
WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
No job too big or too small!!!  
Over 23 years experience  
in all aspects of bookkeeping.  
Call Linda 925.918.2233

### For Sale

These are bibs made for kids of all ages-  
helping those with spilling issues look as  
though they don't have a bib on at all.  
Please check out my website  
for additional info:  
www.oopscatcher.com

### Massage Therapy

**Pleasanton Home Spa**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
1 Hour Body Massage \$49  
1 Hour Foot Reflexology \$30  
**925-249-9958**  
4307 Valley Ave., Suite E  
Pleasanton • In Valley Plaza  
(near 7-11)

### Research Study

**Study Participants Needed**  
**DO YOU HAVE CORONARY  
HEART DISEASE**  
• If your doctor has told you that you  
have coronary heart disease, you  
may qualify to participate in a clinical  
research study.  
• Study participants will receive study  
drug, related medical care at no cost  
and compensation for time and travel.  
**STABILITY**  
To find out more, without obligation,  
contact us:  
Harmony Clinical  
Tim Davis  
(925) 413-1451  
tdavis@harmonyclinical.com

### Personal Training

**ADULT AND ALL NEW TEEN CROSSFIT!**  
**CrossFit** Forging Elite Fitness  
SAN RAMON CoreQuest Fitness  
CrossFitSR.com Use promo code DW101  
2411 Old Crow Canyon Road • 925.457.4587

### Pet Care/Grooming/Training

**Furry Friends**  
Pet Sitting Services  
Trained professional, daily visits,  
basic home care, reliable & caring.  
Call **Monika Harris 417-0424**  
Registered Veterinary Nurse www.furryfriends.tv

2009-2010  
**info**  
Danville  
Mailed to homes in Danville, Alamo,  
Diablo and Blackhawk this September.  
**The most complete local  
resource guide.**

For Market Place Ads Contact  
**Karen (925) 600-0840 x122**  
kklein@pleasantonweekly.com

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Alamo

**Total sales reported:** 2  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$750,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,887,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,318,750

### Danville

**Total sales reported:** 21  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$320,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,500,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$809,976

### Diablo

**Total sales reported:** 1  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$795,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$795,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$795,000

### Walnut Creek

**Total sales reported:** 31  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$145,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,200,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$494,629

Source: California REsource

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during May 2009

### Alamo

**215 Hawk Court** H. & P. Overton to G. & P. Kiraly for \$1,887,500  
**1490 Laurenita Way** Bloss Trust to R. & J. Thompson for \$750,000

### Danville

**240 Alicante Place** K. Angerman to M. Greco for \$780,000  
**325 Conway Drive** T. & C. Whalen to L. & D. Ballif for \$740,000  
**50 Country Hills Court** Nei Global Relocation to A. & T. Arado for \$1,277,500  
**3034 Deer Meadow Drive** Nomura Home Equity to A. Yonathan for \$725,000  
**59 Deer Meadow Lane** R. & L. Bruce to S. & E. Oliver for \$1,005,000  
**3042 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to M. & S. Karatov for \$860,000  
**1993 East Rancho Verde Circle** S. & H. Merritt to Weiss Trust for \$730,000  
**2010 Fostoria Circle** JP Morgan Chase Bank to M. Verlatti for \$320,000  
**240 Glasgow Circle** S. & L. Heninger to N. Fagan for \$769,000  
**2005 Hill Meadow Place** J. & L. Rimbach to N. Field for \$950,000  
**309 La Spezia Court** Lennar Homes to B. Pang for \$915,000  
**318 La Spezia Court** Lennar Homes to C. & T. Pejman for \$1,100,000  
**2152 Myrtle Beach Lane** D. Spelman to P. & D. Vernocy for \$549,000  
**411 Pennington Place** E. & C. Mahoney to Beaver Trust for \$936,000  
**28 Rainbow Circle** Porter Trust to C. Ohara for \$550,000  
**50 Rainbow Circle** M. McGregor to M. Mellone for \$542,000  
**8 Serene Place** Mcdonald Trust to J. Mena for \$499,000  
**3826 Sheffield Circle** Corbiere Trust to M. & M. McGrath for \$945,000  
**135 St. Patricks Drive** Fitzgerald Trust to A. Hernandez for \$530,000  
**23 Timberview Court** Daum Trust to M. & R. Smiley for \$1,500,000  
**100 Turrini Court** Williamson Trust to M. & A. Bride for \$787,000

### Diablo

**1675 El Nido #B** Moeller-Gambs Trust to D. Lee for \$795,000

### Walnut Creek

**1743 Carmel Drive #10** Mimi Trust to A. Burden for \$216,500

**122 Cerezo Drive** Wihera Trust to A. & K. Zakaria for \$660,000  
**155 Circle Drive** N. Miller to K. McLeran for \$638,000  
**261 Dantley Way** J. & N. Ladd to G. & A. McAdam for \$970,000  
**2193 Dapplegray Lane** SGT Investments to Y. Yaremenko for \$390,000  
**60 Del Hambre Circle** Deutsche Bank to Meritage Properties for \$385,000  
**3454 Freeman Road** Bedinger Trust to N. Jones for \$1,200,000  
**2279 Gladwin Drive** Long Beach Mortgage to P. & P. Snyder for \$425,000  
**17 Lee Street** Peddecord Trust to M. & J. Yama for \$829,000  
**1483 Marchbanks Drive #4** Hayes Trust to K. Kretsch for \$245,000  
**123 Margarido Drive** Perata Trust to S. Fallah for \$490,000  
**225 Mayhew Way #15** J. Aiello to S. & N. Dreisch for \$295,000  
**330 North Civic Drive #404** J. Purcell to Blackstock Trust for \$220,000  
**450 North Civic Drive #405** Deutsche Bank to T. Walker for \$239,000  
**4 Parrot Court** D. & T. Payne to K. Beckwith for \$723,000  
**1621 Ptarmigan Drive #1B** Swarts Trust to Gong Trust for \$170,000  
**3430 Rossmoor Parkway #6** Finlayson Trust to Chappell Trust for \$265,000  
**2833 San Antonio Drive** L. Blemberg to R. Grosschedl for \$625,000  
**2376 Shannon Lane** H. & J. Gomez to S. Boaz-Shelley for \$510,000  
**2438 Shannon Lane** HSBC Bank to G. Chow for \$545,000  
**1596 Sunnyvale Avenue #16** M. Wong to M. Zhang for \$145,000  
**1556 Sunnyvale Avenue** Cord Limited to T. Kiessling for \$480,000  
**3401 Terra Granada Drive #1B** Roberts Trust to Black Trust for \$435,000  
**4436 Terra Granada Drive #2A** J. & J. Krome to Metz Trust for \$495,000  
**3288 Terra Granada Drive #4B** Mitchell Trust to S. & K. Hughes for \$355,000  
**900 Trails End Drive** R. & T. Boldt to K. & A. Liberatore for \$610,000  
**3432 Valencia Court** M. & J. Erwin to K. Manning for \$710,000  
**1300 Walden Road #208** Holton Trust to B. Hillberg for \$380,000  
**2560 Walnut Boulevard #5** Blanco Trust to J. Pacheco for \$193,000  
**41 Willow Avenue** Cardella Trust to A. & D. Crawford for \$780,000  
**25 Woodhaven Lane** Rudholm Trust to Kelmick Inc. for \$710,000

Source: California REsource

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### Danville

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**76 Plumeria Court** **\$765,000**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire Realty 858-6906

**5 BEDROOMS**  
**337 Corrie Place** **\$3,375,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Empire Realty 217-5020

### Dublin

**2 BEDROOMS**  
**7825 Tuscany Drive** **\$349,900**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1111

### Pleasanton

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**5450 Black Avenue** **\$398,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Sasville Properties 548-8641

**3039 Badger Drive** **\$559,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

**125 Sylvia Court** **\$669,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Sasville Properties 548-8641

**5625 San Jose Drive** **\$697,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3883

**3484 Park Place** **\$779,950**  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416

**4 BEDROOMS**

**1608 Cindy Way** **\$1,119,000**  
 Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 463-2000

**1624 Cindy Way** **\$1,249,000**  
 Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel 577-2700

**4162 Remillard Court** **\$1,595,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-1944

**1988 Via di Salerno** **\$1,959,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4165

**1964 Via di Salerno** **\$2,095,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

**5703 San Antonio Street** **\$699,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Sasville Properties 548-8641

**5769 San Carlos Way** **\$709,900**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 463-2000

**7548 Olive Drive** **\$769,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 321-6104

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

**3314 Arbor Drive** **\$989,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

**5 BEDROOMS**

**6557 Hanover Court** **\$1,099,000**  
 Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

**413 Los Rios Court** **\$1,149,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 518-3115

**6736 Riddell Street** **\$1,299,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

**1632 Cindy Way** **\$1,349,000**  
 Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 463-2000

**1436 Irongate Court** **\$1,375,000**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

**5682 Sunset Creek Court** **\$1,600,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 463-2000

### San Ramon

**4 BEDROOMS**

**5400 Canyon Crest Drive** **\$798,500**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-1944

### Sunol

**3 BEDROOMS**

**2559 Kilkare Road** **\$574,987**  
 Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel 963-8871

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