

Danville Weekly

Seeking support: Alamo residents ask Danville to help keep SRV Planning Commission PAGE 5

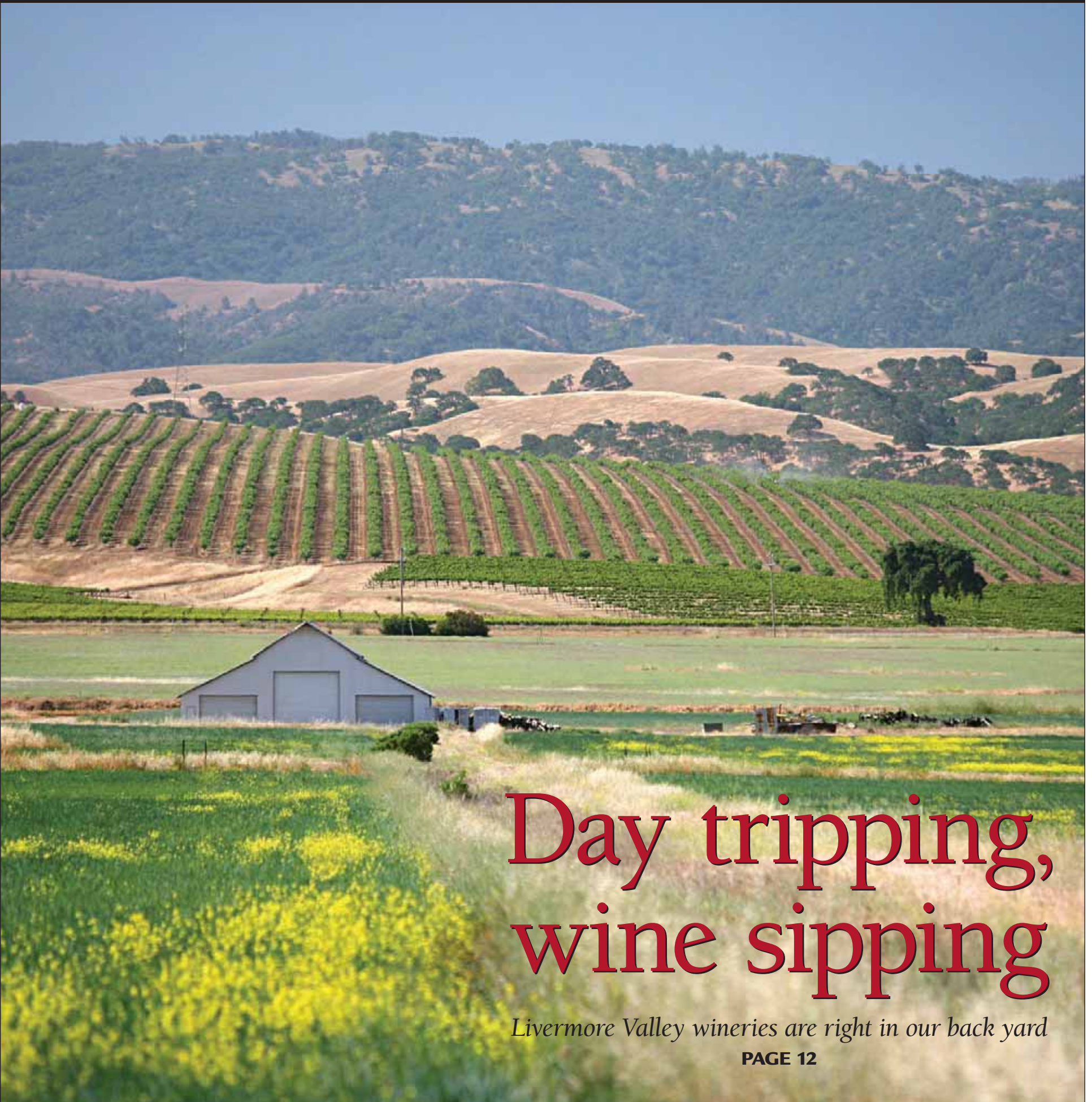
Volunteer goes international: Danville woman serving with Peace Corps in Cambodia PAGE 17

INSIDE

Vol. V, Number 14 · July 31, 2009

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

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Streetwise

ASKED AT MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

What do you think about the Native American remains found at the high school construction site?

(question submitted by Sonya Hoseley)



It's an interesting find, but I'm surprised they found only one person. So, I don't consider it to be a ritual burial spot. Maybe some person just happened to die right there.

Robert Ommen
retired pharmaceutical sales

There have been many times over the years that Andrew Galvan has come here to identify remains. I am pleased that someone had the foresight to put a procedure in place to preserve the dignity and honor of these first inhabitants. Who knows what may have happened before this practice was begun.

Barbara Hubinger
40-year Danville resident



I think it's neat to know what this place was like and who was here. Wherever we've been we like to know historically what went before, what the people were like, and how they survived. This area was probably a great place to live long ago.

Tom Bankert
retired electrical engineer

It's always historically interesting to uncover tribal remains. But I have a hard time feeling concerned about the disposal of the remains once the archaeologists do their carbon dating.

Margaret Knopf
retired teacher



Does anyone know what was on that property before the school was constructed? It could have been someone who died naturally, by accident, or was murdered back in the 1800s. Although that's possible, chances are it was a Native American. Was it a shallow grave at one time and later got built up, or did they have their graves six feet under?

Steve Whittingham
retired construction millwright

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Everyday Wine Guy Don Colman provides some insight into the Livermore Wine Country, which is only a short drive away. Photo by Stephen F. Kelly shows a winegrower's barn with equipment in south Livermore.

Vol. V, Number 14

2009-2010

info

A RESOURCE GUIDE

2009-2010

info

A RESOURCE GUIDE

Alamo
Blackhawk
Danville
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Rita Piazza Ensemble
Theater performs
around the high school
musical "The Sound
of Music" in April at
the Village Theatre.

How to the area through music, art, games and dance
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— Dr. Carolyn Johnson,
Executive and Director of the Quality Education
Department

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- movies
- games

Teaching and Angel Crye shows
Appalachian folk songs and
another student how to work
with a hammer. Photo by
Lynn Luedtke

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— Karen Lind,
Danville Program Coordinator for Youth Services

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I had to go through a very, very arduous and tedious application process. It's kind of worse than applying to college."

Danville resident **JaNise Porter**, 22, who was accepted into the Peace Corps and will serve in Cambodia for the next two years. See story, PAGE 17.

NEWS DIGEST

Monte Vista looking for past cross country champs

The Monte Vista High School Alumni Fun Run has grown over the last four years to reunite cross country graduates to run against the current team, said coach Mike Davis, but he is looking for more past grads.

"It's hard to get the word out to all the families that have had kids go through the program," Davis said. "Some of the school record holders are from the mid '70s, and it would be great to reach out to them. A guy named Bill Soloman holds the mile and two-mile record, since 1972, and the recent athletes would love to meet him and hear his story."

This year's Alumni Fun Run will take place at 9 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 9, at Oak Hill Park. Davis asks alumni to telephone him at 437-8360 or e-mail mike.davis@sbcglobal.net.

Nominate Alamo resident for Rotary recognition

The Rotary Club of Alamo is accepting nominations for its 2009 Citizen of the Year. The award will be presented at the Alamo Music and Wine Festival on Sept. 12.

"I sent the forms to all members of Chamber, the Alamo Improvement Association, the Alamo Women's Club—the people who are actively involved in the community," said Don Morton, chairman of this year's Alamo Citizen of the Year committee.

This year marks the 25th year that the award has been given to someone who has demonstrated a unique commitment to the Alamo community. Morton said the nominee must represent the very best of citizenship, service and integrity. All members of the Alamo community are encouraged to nominate that person who best meets this criteria.

To receive a nominating form, e-mail Morton at dmorton12@yahoo.com.

Round table being held for 10th District candidates

Eleven of the 14 candidates seeking the 10th District congressional seat vacated by U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher will be taking part in a pair of candidates discussions Aug. 7 and 11.

The Aug. 7 event, sponsored by the Bay Area Council and Contra Costa Council, will be held from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord. Fee is \$35 for council members; \$45 for non-members. Reservations can be made at www.contracostacouncil.com.

The Aug. 11 event, held at St. Mary's College, will have the five Democratic candidates meet at 7 p.m., and the six Republicans at 8:15 p.m. The other three candidates, representing the Green, Peace and Freedom and American Independent parties, will not be participating in the event as they are all running unopposed and will not be challenged in the Sept. 1 primary election. The discussion is being sponsored by St. Mary's College, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley and the Contra Costa Times.

The special election was declared after Tauscher was confirmed to take on a new post serving under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Voters will be faced with an interesting ballot in September as, although it is a primary, all candidates will appear on the same ballot, regardless of party. The top vote-getter in each party will move on to the Nov. 3 general election. However, if one candidate receives a better than 50 percent majority of the vote, a winner will be declared and no general election held.

The Contra Costa County Clerk's office has reported that the last day to register to vote in order to receive one of the sample ballots is Aug. 3. Also beginning Aug. 3, vote by mail ballots will be available.

Corrections

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

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Vets Hall plan gets OK from design board

Renovation plan moving on to Planning Commission

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

The ambitious \$7 million plan to renovate and expand the Veterans Memorial Hall in downtown Danville took another step through the approval process last week as members of the Design Review Board examined the plan.

At a July 23 special meeting of the board, members spent nearly three hours going over the designs from architect ARG and discussing several different aspects of the exterior.

The plan under consideration was drafted by ARG in conjunction with a 10-member committee. Veteran and senior groups as well as representatives of the Town of Danville had input into the design.

Robert Storer, a member of the committee and the Design Review board, said he was pleased by what they saw of the plan.

"We looked at the exterior of the building on all four sides. We made a lot of comments and asked questions of ARG. There weren't any big changes we felt needed to be made," he stated.

One area that did raise some questions from the board was how the new addition will mesh with the existing front facade being kept. The expanded portion is being built with a different exterior texture and color. The question was asked whether the new should match with the old or instead strive for a contrast between the two.

Storer said it was actually somewhere in the middle.

"The Heritage Resource Committee guidelines deem a historical building has to look a little different but coordinate with the new. You will certainly know you have a veterans building built in 1925, but it will have to coordinate with the new facility built in 2010," he explained.

While the project has been passed on to the Planning Commission, it will ultimately return to the Design Review Board before construction begins, to finalize many detail issues such as exterior colors, final landscaping and building textures.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said it is exactly that attention to detail that is the hallmark of the Design Review Board.

"That's what this board does. They take the project apart piece by piece. They're not broad policy kinds of meetings, they cover everything in great detail," he said.

The Veterans Hall plan will next be considered at an Aug. 11 joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the Heritage Resource Commission. ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Hot Summer Nights draws cool classics

Danville residents Frank Felicelli (left) and Tom Waterman reminisce over a 1966 GTO Pontiac at Hot Summer Nights on Thursday, July 23. "This is the car that started all the car shows—the muscle car," said Waterman. Crowds swarmed downtown Danville for the first of two 2009 shows, which combine muscle cars, hot rods and vintage rides while live bands play music from the 1950s and '60s. The July show draws mainly local folks, while the second one, being held Aug. 20, brings a larger crowd of people who are in the area for the Good Guys car event at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds.

Alamo wants to keep planning board

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Concerns over the possible loss of the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission prompted four Alamo residents to attend the July 21 meeting of the Danville Town Council to ask for support in keeping the commission.

The commission is one of two such planning bodies in Contra Costa County. Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the SRVRPC oversees development in the unincorporated areas of the southern portion of the county.

With the current discussions of a Municipi-

Residents lobby Danville to support SRV planning body

pal Advisory Council being put in place in Alamo, residents are concerned over statements made by county committees that the MAC would render the planning commission superfluous. The Board of Supervisors is set to discuss the SRVRPC at an August meeting and decide whether to allow the commission to disband when an October sunset date is reached. The County Planning Commission then would make deci-

sions on unincorporated areas of the San Ramon Valley.

Alamo resident Roger Smith addressed the Danville Town Council, asking its members to write a letter to the county in support of the planning commission.

"If we look back over the years, we've had oversight," Smith stated. "They (SRVRPC) played a key role in the development of Dougherty Valley. Having that commission locally gives everyone a chance to voice their concerns and opinions."

MaryAnn Cella asked the council not only

See **ALAMO** on Page 6

Living Treasures runs out of funding options

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

San Ramon Valley is not out of Living Treasures, but the program to honor such residents is out of money.

"I'm disappointed. I thought it went rather well," said Betty Joyce, a volunteer at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley who inaugurated the program two years ago.

Living Treasures began as a presentation at the Museum but when the program received a \$10,000 grant from the Leshner Foundation, it was able to move to the Danville Library and the Community Center. The people honored

as Living Treasures were Joan and Don Kurtz, Beverly Lane, Ken Behring and Brent Jones.

Presentations by each of them were well attended. The Kurtzes, who designed the One-Room Schoolhouse program, turned the Diablo Room at the library into a schoolroom, and adults became school children again in an enjoyable trip down Memory Lane. Lane presented historical characters from Danville's past. Behring told his rags to riches story that culminated in the founding of the Wheelchair Foundation; and Jones brought gridiron action alive with his colorful tales of life in the Na-

tional Football League.

"We applied (for another grant) and Leshner is just not coming through with the grants. There was no real reason," Joyce said.

The Leshner Foundation also has awarded capital grants for museum restoration and in 2005 gave \$20,000 toward the History Curriculum of the San Ramon Valley.

"While we have been faithful funders of the museum for the last several years, the current economic development has made all grant-making very competitive," said Kathleen Odne, executive director of the Leshner

Foundation. "The foundation continues to greatly admire their work."

Joyce said she is glad that historical lectures will continue in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial being celebrated this year. Gerald S. Henig, emeritus professor of History at Cal State East Bay, will present "Lincoln at 200—In Fact Rather than Fiction," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.

"At the museum we have lots of creative people," said curator Beverly Lane. "We work to have a variety of programs." ■

Danville chef auditions for Food Network

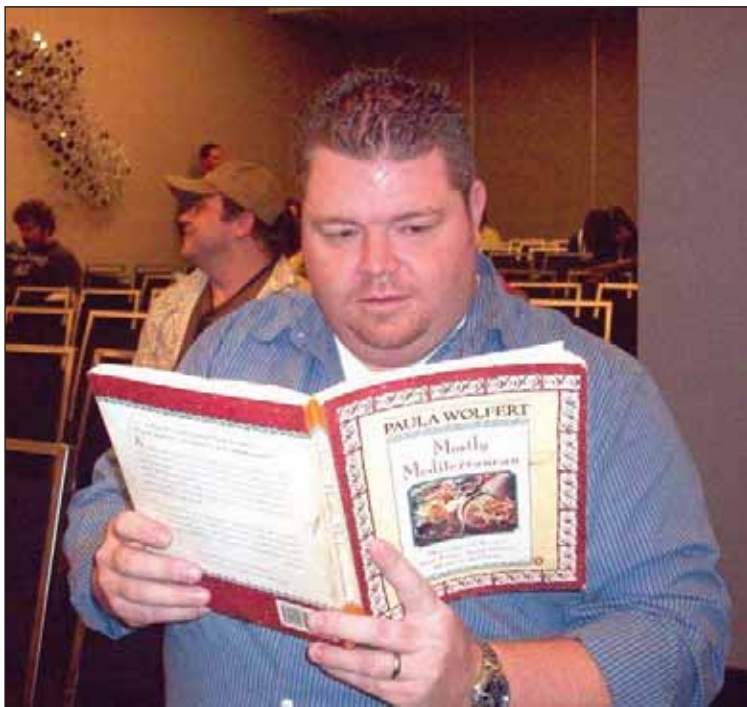
Award winning Chef Rodney Worth, who owns Danville's "The Peasant and the Pear," is hoping to be "The Next Food Network Star." The popular national cable TV network held auditions in San Francisco on Sunday, July 26, and Worth was among more than 200 chefs, cooks and hopeful culinary stars.

"I've always watched the Food Network and just think it would be a real fun thing to do and just show off my culinary talents," said Worth, who also lives in Danville with his wife and three children.

"The Next Food Network Star" is much like "American Idol" for foodies. The show begins with 10 semifinalists who cook for a panel of celebrity judges. Every week one chef is eliminated until there is a national winner.

Being asked to compete on "The Next Food Network Star" would be a huge feather in his cap. Worth hopes the judges feel his passion for cooking.

"It's fun! You're at a party every night when people are at the restaurant," Worth said. "It's a lifestyle



MARK CURTIS

Executive Chef Rodney Worth of Danville studies his "Mostly Mediterranean" cookbook as he prepares to audition for the TV program, "The Next Food Network Star."

for me and my family. It would be a very huge stepping stone in my culinary life."

Worth was named Diablo Magazine "East Bay Chef of the Year in 2008" and Diablo Magazine "Best New Restaurant 2006." He recently opened a second restaurant, "The Peasant Courtyard," in Alamo. His favorite dish to cook is Paella, and his favorite ingredient is eggs.

After waiting in line for almost

six hours Sunday, Worth was finally interviewed by Food Network producers. No cooking was involved, but they talked a lot about his cooking style and personality.

"It went pretty well," Worth said of the 10-minute interview.

Food Network producers told him he'll know in one to two more weeks whether he will get an on-camera cooking audition for "The Next Food Network Star." ■

ALAMO

Continued from Page 5

to support stopping the commission from being disbanded but asked for Danville to come out in favor of returning the sunset date to every four years instead of every year. That cycle was changed last year by District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho in the event that Alamo voted to incorporate.

"At the heart of the matter is that the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission does a better job of protecting our valley than will the county planning commission," Cella said. "A lot of people have complained over the years that the county has eroded the jurisdiction of the commission."

Cella said the return of the New Farm development plan on Danville's eastern edge is also cause for keeping the SRVRPC.

"If that project goes through, there will be thousands of homes going into that area," she claimed.

Alamo Improvement Association President Brad Waite echoed the sentiments of both Smith and Cella.

"There's no valid reason for disbanding it," he said. "We need your support in keeping this commission alive and looking after the interests of all of us here locally."

Councilwoman Candace Andersen gave her support to the commission.

"I think it's very important that this end of the county have a voice in planning," she stated.

Andersen added her feeling was that residents affected by local projects were more likely to be a part of the process here in their local area than having to drive to Martinez for meetings.

Mayor Newell Arnerich agreed.

"It holds no water for the county to say it costs more to have this commission," he said. "I think it behooves all of use to have a voice, otherwise we'll be spending all of our time in Martinez."

Arnerich also expressed concern about having the New Farm plan be seen only by the county planning commission.

"You could count the votes on it," he said. "You could count the votes right now."

Councilman Mike Doyle said he did not feel any need for an additional planning commission just for the San Ramon Valley and questioned whether the SRVRPC has the weight to affect decisions on projects.

"This letter won't make any difference one way or the other," he said. "It doesn't make a difference."

After wrangling over the details, council members voted 3-2 in favor of sending a letter supporting the work of the SRVRPC and calling on the county to allow continued local input on development matters affecting the area.

Councilmen Mike Doyle and Mike Shimansky voted against it. ■

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GEOFF GILLETTE

Good eats for a good cause

Max Steele, 3, and father Paul Steele enjoy the sumptuous breakfast put on July 18 by the Alamo Women's Club and Keller Williams Realty to benefit the families off the Oakland Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty in March. Alamo Women's Club first Vice Chairwoman Corinne Barlow said she was pleased with the turnout. "It went well," she said. "Basically all the tables were full." The families of Sgt. Ervin Romans and Sgt. Mark Dunakin were in attendance at the event, which raised \$2,372 for the trusts set up for the officers' families. The winners of the 50/50 drawing held at the breakfast also opted to donate their winnings back into the fund. Barlow said leftover food was donated to food pantries.

10 schools to get computers under lease agreement

MacBooks provided through parent funding, Title I funds

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A new lease program approved by members of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education will bring an infusion of new technology to several area schools with little cash outlay by the district.

Board members approved a pair of lease agreements with Apple Inc. at a special meeting July 23. District Technology Director Bruce Chmielesky gave a brief presentation on how the leases would work and what they would provide for the school district.

"Getting these computers in the classrooms at these schools will bring us closer to getting to that 1:1 ratio in our classrooms," Chmielesky explained.

"I'm really pleased they are going down this path," agreed Superintendent Steve Enoch. "It's a move to be infusing technology further in our classrooms."

A total of 400 Apple MacBooks would be spread out among the 10 schools. One of the lease agreements is for three years and one is for four years. Schools getting computers include:

- Charlotte Wood Middle School
- Creekside Elementary School
- Country Club Elementary School
- Diablo Vista Middle School
- Live Oak Elementary School
- Los Cerros Middle School

- Montair Elementary School
- Quail Run Elementary School
- Sycamore Valley Elementary School
- Twin Creeks Elementary School

Board members expressed their concerns about the \$466,084 price tag over the four years of the lease agreements. District funding has continued to erode as property taxes have diminished, as well as losses in state funding.

Chmielesky explained that the brunt of the cost for those 10 schools is being picked up by parent contributions.

"About 80 percent of these payments will come from parent donations. The rest will be in Title I and categorical funding," he stated. Seven of the schools will be fully funded by parent donations, two by a mix of parent and school funding, and one that will be completely funded through categoricals, money from the state earmarked for certain areas.

Enoch was quick to point out that schools are using funds that were already donated by parents, not going back to ask for more money to buy the new computers.

"What we've said is we don't want to hear that you're asking parents for more money for this," he warned.

The decision over which schools would participate in the lease

agreement was reached in June. Chmielesky said that they convened a meeting of principals to talk about technology purchasing and the possibility of using leases as a means of getting a better deal. The 10 schools stepped forward as wanting to take part in the plan.

Six schools in the district chose to move ahead with a straight purchase option and bought 127 new computers for their schools. Those schools include Dougherty Valley High School, Windemere Ranch Middle School, Gale Ranch Middle School and Golden View Elementary. Chmielesky said other principals are working with their parent groups and categorical funding to determine if their budgets would allow a similar purchase this year.

Doing the large group leases will have the added benefit of dropping the per unit cost of the computers by more than \$100. Chmielesky added that at the end of the leasing period the district will have the option of purchasing the units at a cost of \$1 each.

Two schools will be receiving the lion's share of the new computers. Both Quail Run Elementary and Sycamore Valley Elementary Schools will receive 100 MacBooks, along with notebook carts to get the computers to the classrooms.

Board member Ken Mintz said See **COMPUTERS** on Page 8

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COMPUTERS

Continued from Page 7

he was pleased that the parent donations were able to provide the computers but questioned what would happen if future donations should fall short and whether the district would be left holding the bag.

District Assistant Superintendent of Finance Gary Black assured the board that would not be the case as each lease agreement is structured such that should the funding dry up, the district has the ability to cancel the agreement and return the computer equipment to Apple.

"We can opt out with 30 days notice and give it back," he explained.

Mintz applauded the leases, saying that this is how businesses are approaching the ever-increasing burden of emerging technologies.

After a brief discussion, board members unanimously approved the two lease agreements.

With the leases approved, Chmielewski said his department will begin the process of getting the equipment in place at their various schools. He said he is hopeful they will have all of the computers ready by the start of school next month. ■

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DIABLO VIEWS

The wedding song: 'Oh, what a night'

I'm leaving the newspaper business to go into wedding consulting. After all, my family just hosted the most fun, fabulous wedding in the history of nuptials.

Although I can't really take credit for it. My daughter Zoe set the tone with her relaxed attitude. From the time she walked down the stairs on her father's arm to the left of the assembled guests and circled around to walk up the aisle, she was smiling at her friends and enjoying herself tremendously. Everyone followed her lead. Here comes the bride suited her just fine, and Scott's Garden in Walnut Creek was the perfect venue for our intimate gathering of 80 friends and family.

We talked about the weather that week more than I ever remember doing, and the break in the heat did not come Saturday as predicted. But temperatures didn't rise to the triple digits either.

I knew that all the pieces would fall into place and it would be a nice evening. What I didn't anticipate was that the whole day would be so enjoyable, even before the wedding took place at 6 p.m. Our son Pepe flew in from Berlin a few days ahead of time, and Zoe stayed overnight at our house after the rehearsal dinner Friday. So Saturday morning found the four of us sitting around trying to stay calm, our individual responsibilities going through our heads—Jim, the father-of-the-bride, and Pepe, who was a groomsman. Zoe thought her eyes looked strained

so she lay down on her bed with cucumber slices on her eyelids; I wanted to stretch out my back muscles so I settled into yoga poses in my room. "Dad!" called out Pepe when he wandered upstairs and found us thus occupied. "The girls are acting weird!"

In the early afternoon "the girls" headed out for Zoe's makeup and hair styling with the veil. In between we discussed the rose ceremony the minister had planned, in which I was to hand the groom, Jeff, a rose to welcome him into our family, and his parents were to do the same with Zoe. The more we talked about the ceremony, the more we doubted that we'd included the two extra long-stemmed roses in the wedding flower order. So we made a quick detour into Alamo Flower Co. where Connie Peterson fixed us up with two pink-edged beauties.

Then it was back to the house where the bridesmaids had arrived in their swishy knee-length teal dresses, and it was time for Zoe to don her gown. It had seemed stiff and formal throughout the fittings as we worried over every detail but on this afternoon, Zoe slipped into it quite naturally, gave a twirl, and suddenly she was a beautiful bride, ready for her big night.

The ceremony went just fine, then we had a long photo session while the guests enjoyed the cocktail reception. We were all reunited for the dinner and the toasts. I loved Jim's speech, noting that when Zoe was 5 years old she announced that she wanted to be a gardener but instead became a kindergarten teacher, nurturing children instead of plants. On to her meeting Jeff while he was still in law school, then us meeting Jeff and how great he proved to be, even after we put him under "the

in-law microscope."

Jim drew laughs with his corny quotes from Henny Youngman and Dr. Joyce Brothers, including, "Marriage is not just spiritual communion, it is also remembering to take out the trash."

He said afterward that looking out at all the friendly faces he knew he'd never have a more receptive audience.

After dinner Jim danced with Zoe to Floyd Cramer's "Last Date," a flawless performance honed by a few practice sessions in our family room. Then the music ramped up and everyone, young and old, took to the dance floor. Jeff's parents proved to be great dancers! The rest of the evening pretty much went by in a happy blur of visiting, dancing, eating cake and watching everyone have fun. Before I knew it, the DJ announced the event was at an end and played one last song, "Oh, What a Night." Mainly the young folks were left and they threw themselves into this last dance, Zoe and Jeff in the middle. Jim and I stood aside, dazed and exhausted but totally satisfied with the evening.

Now friends are starting to send us photos so we can relive the moments and see some we may have missed. I can't wait for Zoe and Jeff to return from their honeymoon to pore over all the details. Plus they have a stack of presents in our dining room that reaches to the ceiling. Of course most important of all is that Zoe has entered into matrimony with a wonderful young man. I'm confident that together they'll build a good life and be able to face whatever is in store for them. And I'm glad we were able to launch their married life with such an exciting, exuberant celebration. Oh, what a night.

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

Police services study nearly complete

Town Manager says draft report should be ready by late August

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

An ongoing study of police services in Danville has passed the halfway point and is expected to reach completion by the end of next month.

"Back in March the council approved entering into a contract with a firm to do a police services study. We went out jointly with the cities of Lafayette and Orinda, and hired one firm which is working with all three cities," said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo.

The firm, Matrix Consulting Group, is providing three separate studies to the three cities, he noted.

Matrix gave a brief status update June 14 at a Town Council study session on where they were with their report.

"At this point they are thinking that they will have an administrative draft to us by the beginning of August," Calabrigo stated.

After receiving the draft report,

Calabrigo and Police Chief Chris Wenzel will go over the findings to check the factual information presented.

"After that we will be prepared to distribute it to the council to look at," Calabrigo said.

Danville does not currently have its own police force but contracts for the service through Contra Costa County. The town periodically examines the costs associated with the contract and compares them to the costs of providing police services "in house."

"We do an analysis of how we provide our police services to the community," Calabrigo related. "We do it to make sure we're utilizing the resources we have in the best possible way."

He stressed that the reason for the study is not because Danville officials are unhappy with the level of service they've received, but rather it is in

order to provide sound recommendations to the county regarding how taxpayers' money is being spent.

"This is one of those areas where through the county's pension system, costs have increased rather significantly in the last few years. The concern is that we might not be able to keep pace with those costs increases as we move forward," Calabrigo said.

Under the contract with the county, Danville is provided a complement of 30 officers from the Sheriff's Department. Those officers are detailed to work for the Danville Police Department and are overseen by Police Chief Wenzel, who is a captain within the ranks at the Sheriff's Department.

Calabrigo said that once they have gone over the figures and results from the Matrix study he will formulate recommendations for the Town Council on how best to proceed. ■

Man killed in multi-car crash

CHP investigating early Saturday wreck on Danville freeway

By Geoff Gillette

The California Highway Patrol and the Contra Costa County Coroner's Office are investigating an early Saturday accident involving five automobiles that claimed the life of a Pleasanton man.

CHP Information Officer Steve Creel said the accident occurred around 12:30 a.m. just past the on-ramp to I-680 from Sycamore Valley Road. Creel said Michael Rose, 46, was driving a 1998 Toyota pickup south on I-680 when he apparently lost control of the vehicle. The car struck the center median

and overturned.

Creel said it was not readily apparent if Rose was ejected from the pickup truck or extricated himself following the accident but he was out of the truck when he and the vehicle were struck by other autos. A total of four other autos were involved. No other injuries were reported.

CHP arrived moments later as did emergency crews from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. Rose was pronounced dead at the scene by officials with the Contra Costa County Coroner's office.

Creel said they are continuing to investigate the accident. He said they are trying to determine just why Rose lost control of the vehicle in the first place, and they are trying to piece together the sequence of events that followed the pickup's collision.

"We have five vehicles out there and we're trying to put together who hit who," he explained.

Coroner's reports and toxicology tests will also help in the investigation.

Creel said they should know more in the next few weeks. ■

Blackhawk man, daughter arrested in securities fraud scheme

By Geoff Gillette

Two members of a Danville family are facing several federal charges in connection with a securities fraud that netted nearly \$3 million. Nasser Hamedani, 71, and his daughter Sholeh Hamedani, 42, were taken into custody Monday morning at their home on Kingswood Drive in Blackhawk by officers with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello said the pair faces a 12-count grand jury indictment that was made public Monday. According to the indictments, the Hamedanis raised

millions of dollars from investors for a start-up company called the Children's Internet Inc. The funds were to be used to develop and market software to protect children while they used the Internet.

Russoniello said instead the pair diverted approximately \$1.2 million of those funds for personal expenses, including home mortgages, vehicles and gambling.

The indictment also alleges that they used hidden accounts to trade shares in their company to generate an additional \$1.6 million in profits. They have been charged

with securities fraud, obstruction of justice, false statements to accountants, falsifying records and conspiracy.

After their arrest Monday, both of the Hamedanis were brought before Federal Magistrate Edward Chen in San Francisco. They were each released on a \$500,000 bond, placed on home detention and forced to submit to electronic monitoring. They were to return to court July 30 to appear again before Judge Chen.

Sentences for the charges could range from five-25 years and carry large financial penalties as well. ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

14 running for 10th district

The race to replace U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher in the 10th Congressional District is heavily under way, with the special election Sept. 1 barely a month away. Fourteen candidates are vying to represent the district, which spreads from Dixon in the north, to El Cerrito in the east, down to Alamo, then loops around to take in Livermore.

Open congressional seats are rare so when Tauscher was appointed as Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, it was viewed by politicians as a way to make a difference nationally and to secure a long-term job. Although Congressional terms are only two years, elected representatives are usually fairly secure after a few terms unless the opposing party pulls out all the stops to unseat them or the district boundaries are redrawn.

Two local Democratic state officials - Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (Alamo) and state Sen. Mark DeSaulnier (Concord) - are in the running. Buchanan was elected last November to serve her first term in the state Assembly. DeSaulnier has already served his allotment of terms in the Assembly and was elected senator in November 2008. Since California adopted term limits for its legislators, politicians can no longer specialize in running the state: To apply their knowledge and talents for any length of time they need to seek either national or local posts. The other Democrat already in an elected position is Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a resident of Walnut Grove who was considering a run for governor until the 10th Congressional seat was vacated. Other Democrats running are Adriel Hampton, an investigator from Dublin, and Anthony Woods, a resident of Fairfield who served two tours of duty in Iraq as an Army captain until he was honorably discharged when he decided to no longer remain silent under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" regulation.

Republicans running are small business owner independent businessman David Harmer of San Ramon; small business owner Mark Loos of Livermore; accountability system owner David Peterson of Walnut Creek; physician John Toth of Concord; Chris Bunch of Fairfield; and retired peace officer Gary W. Clift of Vacaville. Other candidates are insurance agent Jerry Denham, a Walnut Creek resident; of the American Independent party; college instructor Jeremy Cloward of Pleasant Hill, of the Green party; and El Cerrito resident Mary C. McIlroy of the Peace and Freedom party.

The special election Sept. 1 is an "open" primary with all 14 candidates on one ballot. If one candidate receives 50 percent plus one vote, he or she will be elected. Otherwise the top voter getters from all parties will run against each other in the election Nov. 3. It should prove to be an interesting election.

GUEST OPINION

By JOE DANA

Vets Hall plan is inappropriate

As my U.S.M.C. Footlocker is housed in the Veterans Memorial Building, I am interested in the future of this building. In reviewing the plans for its "Rehabilitation and Addition," my opinion is that it is neither a good plan nor a bad plan, but it is an inappropriate plan.

Under the guise of modernizing the Veterans Memorial Building, we are plunking down a huge multi-use edifice in downtown Danville. Read the July 23 agenda of the Design Review Board meeting. The request is for a 6,089-square-foot addition to the existing 6,625-square-foot building, and three separate variances to the Town's Downtown Business District Ordinance.

These variances cover everything from pushing the front and the side of the Vet's Hall forward in the first case, and to the sidewalk in the second case. All nine redwood trees mainly on the side of the property and the two cedar trees that provide the ambiance and shade to the front of the Vet's Hall are to be removed.

Red warning flags should have gone up on this project a long time ago. Beverly Lane is correct that we are attempting to do too much with this small building. Two platform terraces are to be built on the front of the Vet's Hall. Their height, including their walls and railings, bury the existing staircase and visually cut off from view the bottom half of the "historic entrance." They completely change the front appearance of the building.

I took my set of the plans and sat across Hartz Avenue and looked at the front of the building. If the left platform is not built and the wall dropped from the right

platform to only use railings, this desecration is alleviated. Leave the cedar trees alone.

Although we are supposed to be "retaining the historic front portion of the building," we are not doing it. Please do not expect these modifications to happen. This is a minor adjustment.

The biggest problem is that the overall concept is too inclusive. Rather than accommodating the tri-use of veterans, community and senior center, eliminate the senior center portion of the building. At a previous meeting, Town Manager Joe Calabrigo explained that during construction, senior activities will be housed in different town facilities. Good, keep them there.

Why? So the 225 people attending community center functions have more outdoor space to mill about as they exit the three doors onto Prospect Avenue. They would then have the sidewalk and back area of the building to hang out in. This would double the outdoor space available. This would also eliminate the need for a variance so that 44 feet of the side of the building can encroach to the edge of the sidewalk on Prospect Avenue. And also the stage could be located at its correct location at the rear of the Vet's Hall rather than being in front of the entrance.

Although many thoughtful individuals and various representative groups are involved, and the process has been uniquely transparent and open, there is a lost focus. Rather than focus on the building itself and its unique site, we attempted to accommodate, to the maximum, all the wants and needs of everyone involved. It is now become a building "by Committee" and this juggernaut will not be modified, and cannot be stopped.

Joe Dana is a 40-year resident of Danville and was a 1st Lt. Infantry Platoon Leader in the U.S.M.C.

4-H says thanks

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank everyone in our community who helped us during our lamb and swine projects: our leaders, parents and especially the Safeway stores in Alamo and San Ramon, and the Lewkowicz Family for their donations at the Alameda County Fair livestock auction.

4-H is a youth-based organization for kids aged 5-19 that teaches citizenship, leadership and life skills. Activities can include raising an animal or learning a skill, like cake decorating. The end-of-the-year highlight is entering your livestock or project into the county fair for judging against other clubs. Projects in our club include sheep, swine, goats, rabbits, cake-decorating, photography, cooking and woodworking.

Joining a 4H club usually occurs at the start of the school year. Find more information at www.ca4h.org or at www.alamedacounty.org.

Monica, Chris & Dennis Riley
Members of Tassajara Valley 4-H

Kids need time for fun

Dear Editor:

I think I should send a message to the teachers to help kids. I think there is no way a kid should have three hours of homework everyday including weekends. We need a break! Parents have the weekends off from work, kids should have the same privilege. Kids need time to play and use their imaginations. Have you ever heard about the new word called "fun"? You should try it some time.

Matthew Fraysse
Walnut Creek

Danville Weekly

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Diablo and Danville

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LETTERS

Keep the trees to help the climate

Dear Editor:

Eight trees, seven redwoods and one pine, are scheduled to be cut down for the expansion of the Veteran's Memorial Building in Danville. The Town is permitted to take down the seven 70- to 80-foot-tall redwoods because the redwoods have been designated "nuisance" trees.

That sounds like an outmoded business-as-usual idea not compatible with this era of climate disruption. Instead of cutting down the trees and releasing tons of CO2 into our atmosphere, consider the benefits of these living trees.

These trees clean carbon dioxide

from the atmosphere. Redwoods sequester the most CO2 of all trees. These trees hold water for replenishing the aquifer which California is drawing down faster than it replenishes. These trees cool the street in summer and slow the high winds in winter. What a nuisance these redwoods are!

Balance these long term benefits against widening a building about 12 feet right up to the sidewalk and safeguarding the underground pipes from invasive roots. If enough people feel strongly about climate disruption, perhaps we can convince the Town of Danville not to log those trees and further contribute to cooking our planet.

Write to the Town. It doesn't matter if you are a resident of Danville: Climate disruption knows no boundaries.

Margreta von Pein
Alamo

Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN

Drug bust nets bogus baseball card

Detectives with the Danville Police Department are searching for the owner of what was originally thought to be an extremely rare and valuable baseball card found during a weekend drug bust.

Sgt. Dan Hoffman said just after 1 p.m. Sunday, Officer Anthony Maldonado was on patrol in the parking lot of the Best Western Inn on Camino Ramon when he saw a man acting strangely. Hoffman said Maldonado approached the man, identified as Rudolph Krutzner, 49, of Danville and made contact.

Suspecting that Krutzner was under the influence of drugs, he initiated a field sobriety test and determined that the Danville man was under the influence of a central nervous system stimulant. On arrest, Krutzner admitted to being in possession of narcotics, according to reports. A drug believed to be methamphetamine was found on his person. Also reported found were a pipe commonly used to smoke meth, and pills suspected to be codeine and valium.

Following the arrest, Maldonado searched the suspect's vehicle and turned up a black case containing what appeared to be an original Honus Wagner T206 baseball card. The card is considered to be one of the rarest baseball cards in existence and has been auctioned off for \$2.8 million.

When asked, Krutzner was unable to provide specific information as to where the card came from or its ownership. Police have determined that the card is not worth millions after all. Hoffman said a Southern California company confirmed that it is not an original Wagner although it is an old card and may still be valuable. A notification went out to area agencies regarding any reported thefts of a baseball card but so far there have been no responses.

Krutzner faces several drug charges. He was taken to the Matrinez Detention Center and is now free on bond.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, July 19

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:05 a.m.
- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 7:02 a.m.
- Auto Burglary on Del Amigo Rd. at 8:36 a.m.
- Grand Theft on Brookside Dr. at 7:33 p.m.
- Battery on Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:19 p.m.

Monday, July 20

- Vandalism on Del Amigo Rd. at 7:40 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Century Way at 1:07 p.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Ranch at 7:23 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Danville Blvd. at 7:33 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Fostoria Way at 9:53 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21

- Forgery, fraudulent documents, on El Pintado Rd. at 10:19 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Lane at 5:13 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:33 p.m.
- Battery, arrest, at 7:10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

- Accident, property damage, on

- Diablo Rd. and Via Hermosa at 10:38 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Center Way and Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:31 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Love Lane at 1:54 p.m.
- Grand theft on Ashley Circle at 6:02 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 10:31 p.m.

Thursday, July 23

- Vandalism on Clover Hill Ct. at 7:07 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Princeton Ct. at 1:06 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Danville Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 5:45 p.m.
- Armed robbery on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:35 p.m.
- Grand theft on Danville Blvd. at 10:06 p.m.

Friday, July 24

- Adult missing on Hartz Ave. at 3:16 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Front St. at 9:28 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 1:35 p.m.
- Accident, fire, on El Pintado Rd. and southbound I-680 at 2:21 p.m.

Saturday, July 25

- Accident, property damage, on Blackhawk Rd. and Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:43 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Glasgow Circle at 6:27 a.m.

BIRTHS

Breanna Chan

Breanna Chan was born at 8:19 p.m. July 17 weighing 7.8 pounds at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek to Danville residents Yikki and Larry Chan. Her brother Bernard, 8, attends Tassajara Hills Elementary in Danville.



ANNIVERSARY

Joan and Paul Kaufmann

Joan and Paul Kaufmann celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 11 on Maui and included the Danville Weekly in the festivities.





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JAY FLACHSBARTH

Russ Miller pours specialty wine of the day at Wente Vineyards tasting room. This is one of dozens of wineries in the Livermore Valley that welcome visitors to learn more about their wines.

Day tripping, wine sipping

Livermore Valley wineries are right in our back yard

By **DON COLMAN**

Quick, think of a wine region. Most people say Napa, Italy, France, maybe even Australia. They are known for having the perfect climate, soil and rainfall to grow some of the best grapes in the world. But living in the Danville area, we all know that Livermore grows grapes although we may ask: How good can they be?

There are three main components that help wine grapes grow—geography, climate and soil. Geographically, Livermore is unique in Northern California. It is one of the only areas that runs east-west rather than north-south and is guarded by rolling coastal mountains. The east-west nature allows for the thick ocean fog to seep into the Livermore Valley, leading to an ideal growing climate.

As all residents of Danville know, this air flow creates hot summer days and cool nights. On top of that, the region has a cooling breeze, almost like an air conditioner. These winds are the reason for so many windmills on the Altamont Pass

east of the Livermore Valley. In wine terms, this is Utopia as these conditions allow fruit to ripen beautifully.

Finally, Livermore's soil is primarily gravel. The better the drainage the less water the grapes have and the deeper the roots go searching for moisture. This leads to healthier vines with more dense and flavorful fruit.

The region is critical, as you either have great growing conditions or you don't. Very rarely will you find excellent wines from a locality that has poor growing conditions. However, the right geography, climate and soil do not assure you of a great wine; the other key ingredient to success lies with the winemaker, and Livermore has its fair share of talent.

The Livermore Valley has 47 wineries with a range of styles and flavors. This article is neither large enough to cover all of the wineries nor will it do justice to the stories behind each vintner. It can, however, be a starting point for day trips to the Livermore Wine Country.

Following is a sampling of 11 wineries, including a See **WINERIES** on Page 14

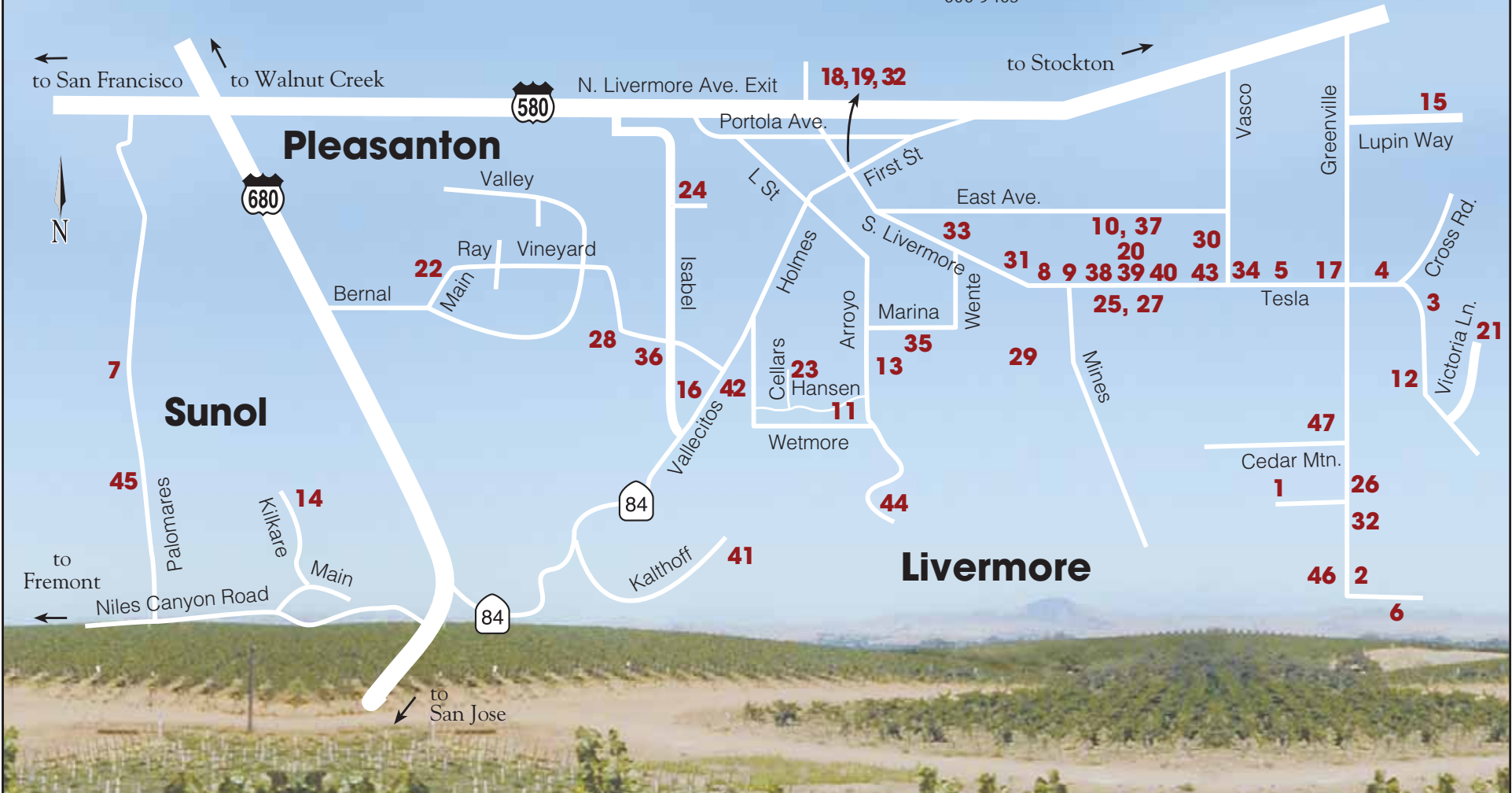


STEVEN F. KELLY

Sign post in Livermore Valley guides visitors to local wineries.

LIVERMORE VALLEY WINERIES

- 1. Bent Creek Winery**
5455 Greenville Rd.
Livermore 94550
455-6320
- 2. Big White House Winery**
6800 Greenville Rd.
Livermore 94550
449-1976
- 3. BoaVentura de Caires Winery**
9309 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
606-9672
- 4. Bodegas Aguirre Winery**
8580 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
606-0554
- 5. Cedar Mountain Winery**
7000 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
373-6636
- 6. Charles R Vineyards**
8195 Crane Ridge Rd.
Livermore 94550
454-3040
- 7. Chouinard Vineyards**
33853 Palomares Rd.
Castro Valley 94552
(510) 582-9900
- 8. Concannon Vineyard**
4590 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
456-2508
- 9. Crooked Vine Winery/
Stony Ridge Winery**
4948 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
449-0458
- 10. Cuda Ridge Wines**
5385 East Ave., Ste. B
Livermore 94550
(510) 304-0914
- 11. Deer Ridge Vineyards**
1828 Wetmore Road
Livermore 94550
743-9427
- 12. Eagle Ridge Vineyard**
10017 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
447-4328
- 13. Eckert Estate Winery**
2400 Arroyo Rd.
Livermore 94550
371-8606
- 14. Elliston Vineyards**
463 Kilkare Rd.
Sunol 94586
862-2377
- 15. El Sol Winery**
8626 Lupin Way
Livermore 94550
606-1827
- 16. Fenestra Winery**
83 Vallecitos Rd.
Livermore 94550
447-5246
- 17. Garre Vineyards & Winery**
7986 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
371-8200
- 18. Hidden Creek Wine**
21 S. Livermore Ave., Ste. 113
Livermore 94550
371-2424
- 19. John Christopher Cellars**
25 S. Livermore Ave. Ste. 103
Livermore 94550
456-9463
- 20. La Rochelle Winery**
5443 Tesla Road
Livermore 94550
243-6442
- 21. Les Chenes Estate Vineyards**
5562 Victoria Ln.
Livermore 94550
373-1662
- 22. Little Valley Winery**
793 Main St., Ste. J
Pleasanton 94566
862-9006
- 23. Livermore Valley Cellars**
2838 Cellars Dr.
Livermore 94550
454-9463
- 24. Longevity Wines**
35 Rickenbacker Circle South,
Ste. B
Livermore 94550
551-3673
- 25. Marr Cellars**
5143 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
606-9463
- 26. McGrail Vineyards & Winery**
5600 Greenville Rd.
Livermore 94550
373-6214
- 27. Miramont Estate Vineyard**
5143 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
606-9463
- 28. Mitchell Katz Winery at Ruby Hill**
1188 Vineyard Ave.
Pleasanton 94566
931-0744
- 29. Murrieta's Well**
3005 Mines Rd.
Livermore 94550
456-2390
- 30. Occasio Winery**
2245 S. Vasco Rd.
Livermore 94550
371-1987
- 31. Page Mill Winery**
1960 S. Livermore Ave.
Livermore 94550
456-7676
- 32. Red Feather Winery**
5700 Greenville Rd.
Livermore 94550
(510) 861-2722
- 33. Retzlaff Vineyards**
1356 S. Livermore Ave.
Livermore 94550
Also at Blacksmith Square
25 S. Livermore Ave.
447-8941
- 34. Rios-Lovell Estate Winery**
6500 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
443-0434
- 35. Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery**
3053 Marina Ave.
Livermore 94550
447-4280
- 36. Ruby Hill Winery**
400 Vineyard Ave.
Pleasanton 94566
931-9463
- 37. Ryhan Estate Vineyards**
5385 East Ave.
Livermore 94550
600-8747
- 38. The Singing Winemaker**
5143 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
606-9463
- 39. The Steven Kent Winery**
5443 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
243-6440
- 40. Tamás Estates**
5489 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
456-2380
- 41. Tenuta Vineyards**
633 Kalthoff Commons
Livermore 94550
960-1006
- 42. Thomas Coyne Winery**
51 E. Vallecitos Rd.
Livermore 94550
373-6541
- 43. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room**
5565 Tesla Rd.
Livermore 94550
456-2305
- 44. Wente Vineyards Visitors Center & Tasting Room**
5050 Arroyo Rd.
Livermore 94550
456-2405
- 45. Westover Vineyards & Winery**
34329 Palomares Rd.
Castro Valley 94552
(510) 537-3932
- 46. White Crane Winery**
5405 Greenville Rd.
Livermore 94550
455-8085
- 47. Wood Family Vineyards**
7702 Cedar Mountain Dr.
Livermore 94550
606-7411



WINERIES

Continued from Page 12

suggestion of one "must try" wine from each vintner.

Crooked Vine Winery

A beautiful winery that is perfect for a big event. Weddings, parties, corporate functions—they can do it all. Use the gorgeous courtyard, equipped with lights and a sound system, or try the barrel room, which includes a traditional bar. What about the wine? The Syrah (\$30) is true to form. It is loaded with red peppers and berries, and enough tannins to pair well with big meat dishes. A well balanced and easy-to-drink wine.

Deer Ridge Vineyards

This winery is a mix of Scottish heritage and California decor. The building is gorgeous and efficient. You can see the entire operation in one building, which includes a stellar tasting room and banquet facility ideal for weddings, reunions or conferences. It even has a two-bedroom guesthouse that could be rented on a wedding night. Deer Ridge's Moonstruck (\$36) is a real treat—a blend of cabernet sauvignon, syrah, petite syrah and merlot that makes me think of "These are a few of my favorite things" from "Mary Poppins." The ingredients create a well balanced yet complex wine that every wine cellar must have.

John Christopher Cellars

This is a relaxing way to taste

wine as it is located in downtown Livermore. People end up tasting a wine and then purchasing a bottle to drink in the courtyard. This tasting room is a well appointed, store-front style surrounded by other tasting rooms, shops and restaurants. This makes an easy add-on trip to other downtown Livermore errands. It produces a blend of petite syrah and syrah (called Quixotic, \$28) that is fruit forward and very smooth, and that disappears as fast as the corks come out of the bottle.

La Rochelle

Another unique wine experience, across the parking lot from Steven Kent. Plan to spend some time here, as it does a sit-down wine and food experience, a perfect midday break. This lets visitors see how they can pair food with wine to enhance the overall experience. La Rochelle is known for its pinot noirs, which do not disappoint. The 2006 La Rochelle Santa Lucia Highlands (\$40) is an unbelievable pinot—fruitful, smooth, balanced and worth every penny. There is no messing around; this is 100 percent pinot territory. This winery knows what it is good at and does it well.

Longevity Wines

I did not know what to expect, as Longevity is known as an urban winery. Guests pull into an industrial park and walk into a small but well appointed tasting room. The rest of the building is dedicated to pure wine making. The beauty of this is that it is quick and easy

to get to and visitors can spend their entire time with the owners/winemakers. The petite syrah (\$18) ranks up there with the best of them. It is full of blackberries and peppers and is very well balanced.

McGrail Vineyards & Winery

The winemakers at this small family-owned winery are a father-daughter team. They decided to be good at one thing and one thing only—cabernet sauvignon (\$36). Their cabs are big, full bodied wines with lots of berries and earth flavors that rival those produced in Napa. McGrail has a spectacular tasting room, which opened in 2008.

Page Mill Winery

Originally from Palo Alto and now located in the heart of Livermore, this has a real old school feel to it. Wine is sampled in a barn surrounded by grapes. The barn is cozy, and lucky visitors will see the "watch cats" that sometimes lounge on the couches. Page Mill makes an outstanding sauvignon blanc (\$17). The winery says it lets the grapes do all the work. It is a very flavorful wine that bursts with citrus and is a relatively small production—so get it early.

The Steven Kent Winery

A truly unique experience for wine tasting. At Steven Kent, no one lines up at a wine bar waiting to be served, but rather guests are shown to their own tables where they can talk with no crowds and be served by waiters. An added

plus, La Rochelle is across the parking lot—two wineries with no driving. Steven Kent's cabernet sauvignon (\$45) is out of this world! It is a cab that I would stack against some of the best in world; it makes a perfect special occasion wine. It is a medium- to full-bodied wine with the classic California cabernet sauvignon characteristics. Fruit forward with a smooth finish and just the right amount of tannins.

Wente Vineyards

The consummate winery, Wente has all of the benefits of a big winery but still has a small vintner feel. Wente is an integral part of Livermore Wine Valley history and it shows. Wente could be a day trip by itself. Start with a round of golf at its gorgeous par-72 course, have a gourmet lunch in its restaurant, make your way to the tasting room for some wine, and end the day with a musical show at Wente's summer concert series. On top of all of that, the winery consistently produces excellent wines. Its Riesling (\$12) is refreshing, loaded with sweet apples, and very smooth on the finish.

White Crane Winery

Step back in time and visit this quaint winery. Visitors are completely surrounded by the vineyard as they make their way to a good old-fashioned tasting room with walls covered by awards. White Crane is becoming recognized by everyone for its quality; Barry Manilow has even hired it to produce a wine under his name. Its port

is not nearly as sweet as some of those sugary aperitifs, which is a nice change, and it's a must-buy at approximately \$40 a bottle.

Wood Family Vineyards

Make sure to call ahead for directions and save some time to go into the tasting room at Wood Family. Visitors love the feel of this winery as they are literally welcomed to the Wood home—the complete opposite of the generic tours too often found in the Napa region. Guests have a chance to sit down with the Wood family and hear their story. One highlight is a merlot (\$22) produced from grapes that grow in the vineyard surrounding the house. The merlot is a beautiful blend of cherries with just a hint of sweet citrus fruit. The tannins give it a lovely chewy feel for a flavor-burst with every sip.

Livermore Valley Wineries are barely 30 minutes from Danville, which makes them the perfect destination for a summer day trip. Many people say the region reminds them of Napa about three decades ago, with wineries galore and owners excited about sharing their wares. Buy the wine, share the wine, and drink the wine, you won't be disappointed.

Until next time, cheers!

Don Colman, the Everyday Wine Guy lives in Danville and can be reached at everydaywineguy@hotmail.com. His column appears every other week.



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Art

LINDSAY DIRKX BROWN ART GALLERY Stop by the art gallery located inside the San Ramon Community Center and enjoy a different gallery exhibit each month. James Gayles' abstracts were on display July 1-31. Mary Claire Stotler's plein-air art is Aug. 2-31 with a reception from 2-4 p.m., Aug. 9. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and is located at 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

NEW CCJCC EXHIBIT BY FRANK SPALDING The public is invited to enjoy the Whimsical Art of Frank Spalding, on display at the Contra Costa JCC through Dec. 30. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contra Costa JCC is located at 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Admission is free. Visit www.ccjcc.org

Civic Meetings

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

Camps

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. E-mail srvvball@sbc-global.net or call 838-7595.

Classes

JOURNALING FOR CAREGIVERS You Want Me to Do What? Journaling relieves the stress of care giving. Come put your truths on paper and share them if you like. Please bring a pen and notebook. Instructor: Lynn Goodwin. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 3 at the Danville Library Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St., Danville. Call 314-3400.

Concerts

BLACKHAWK PLAZA CONCERT SERIES Blackhawk Plaza presents its free concert series starting at 7 p.m., Fridays, July 10-Aug. 14. East Bay Mudd, July 31; Evolution: the Journey tribute band, Aug. 7; and Tainted Love, Aug. 14. Seating

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



National Night Out: Officer Shawn Nygard talks with children during National Night Out 2008. Celebrate "National Night Out 2009" from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 4. Local law enforcement personnel from the community will visit registered neighborhood block parties throughout town to help answer questions or concerns. To register, call 314-3705.

begins at 5 p.m.; no outside food or drink. Call 736-2751.

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 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 31 and Aug. 14. These concerts are free. Visit www.alamore.org.

Events

"A BAD DAY FOR SORRY: A CRIME NOVEL" Danville novelist Sophie Littlefield will visit to celebrate the publication of her first book, "A Bad Day for Sorry: A Crime Novel"

at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6, at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

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

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

CAL SHAKES COSTUME SHOP SALE The California Shakespeare Theater costume department has just completed a huge reorganization of its inventory and the result is tons of costumes, wigs and accessories to be sold to the public at thrift-store prices. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 to Sunday, Aug. 9

at Cal Shakes Rehearsal Hall, 701 Heinz Ave., West Berkeley. For more information call (510)548-3422 ext. 131.

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

'GUYS AND DOLLS' AT SRVHS See Danville, San Ramon and Alamo residents Lindsey Scanlon, Madi Kay, Alli Garavaglia, Emily Jones, Sarah Mori, Gillian Foley, Jacob Judd, Nick McKenna and Lauren McNutt in a funny and romantic story, "Guys and Dolls," from 8-9:30 p.m., Friday, July 24-Aug. 2 at San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Cost

is \$14. Call 944-0900 or visit dloc.org.

MASTER CLASS WITH VICTORIA CLARK Tony Award winning actress Victoria Clark will be giving a master class for one night only from 7-9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 7, at San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. She won her Tony in Light in the Piazza and holds a bachelor's degree from Yale and a master's from NYU. She will work with four students from the audience. Cost is \$20. Call (510) 289-5916.

MICHAEL MORGAN TO DIRECT FESTIVAL OPERA'S 'FAUST' Performances of "Faust" are scheduled for 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8 and Tuesday, Aug. 11; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 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. Call 944-9610.

PEACE CORPS AT DANVILLE LIBRARY Peace Corps Volunteers have served throughout Central and South America since the organization began and currently serve in more than a dozen countries throughout the region. At this event, returned volunteers will share photos and stories of their experience and the country in which they served from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 31 at the Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville.

SUMMER NIGHTS AT THE LIVERY Come and enjoy live music, critter shows, clowns, balloons and more at Summer Nights Thursdays, Aug. 6 and 13, in the Livery in Danville. Call 838-7070.

Film

MOONLIGHT MOVIES ON TOWN GREEN Town of Danville hosts Moonlight Movies on Town Green from 8:15-10:30 p.m., Fridays, June-August, on the Town Green in front of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. "Zathura" on July 31; and "Coraline" on Aug. 14. Call 314-3400.

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Fundraisers

17TH ANNUAL OPERA IN THE VINEYARD BENEFIT PERFORMANCE Opera in the Vineyard will feature singers performing their favorite arias and musicals from 5-8 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2, at Retzlaff Vineyard, 1356 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Tickets are \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door; bring a picnic dinner. A silent auction and a drawing will raise funds for Livermore Valley Opera's Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci product. Call 449-4062 or visit www.retzlaffwinery.com.

Kids and Teens

WHEN MOM OR DAD HAS CANCER School-age children participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

Lectures/ Workshops

AM I JUST FORGETFUL OR IS IT CHEMOTHERAPY After cancer treatment, many report difficulty with their thinking abilities. Learn symptoms, tips and helpful strategies to help manage chemobrain with Alice Barlettani, RN, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

BREAST RECONSTRUCTIVE CHOICES Dr. Eric Mairotti will discuss reconstruction options available to those with breast cancer from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

HEALTHY PETS NATURALLY BY MYRA NISSEN, CCH Learn how to support the well-being of your animal using homeopathic remedies and other resources, from 10-10:45 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, at Sports Basement, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. RSVP is recommended. Call 826-3858.

Live Music

DAVE FEST 2009 Mark your calendars for the first annual Dave Fest, benefiting the San Ramon Valley YMCA. Music by Lumberyard, The Shillz, Spinout, Zero To Couch, Mersey Beach, and more. From 12:30 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15 at Hap Magee Park, 1026 La Gonda Way, Danville. \$20 suggested donation. Call 831-1100 or visit www.srvymca.org.

On Stage

'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JR.' Kids Take the Stage presents "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 7; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8; and 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9, at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12. Call 973-2787 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

'ANNIE JUNIOR' Kids Take the Stage presents "Annie Junior" performed by kids for kids at 7 p.m., Friday, July 31; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1; and 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2, at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for

children under 12 years old. Call 973-2787 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

'PRIVATE LIVES' Cal Shakes' production presents "Private Lives" at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda through Aug. 2. For more information, Call (510)548-9666 or visit calshakes.org.

'THE GLASS MENAGERIE' Come support a local, independent theatre! See the Danville Theatre Company's production of the Tennessee Williams classic "The Glass Menagerie" from 8-10 p.m., Friday, July 31 at Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Cost is \$15, \$12 for students. Visit www.danvilletheatreco.com.

THE LAMPLIGHTERS PRESENT 'MY FAIR LADY' The Lamplighters bring their signature flair to one of America's most beloved musicals—the story of the transformation of a cockney "guttersnipe" into an upper class lady accepted in the best of society. Special guest appears as the incorrigible Alfred P. Doolittle. From July 30 to Aug. 1 at Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Cost ranges from \$14 to \$50. Call 943-7469 or visit lamplighters.org/season.html#mfl.

Spiritual

CREATIVE JOURNALING SUMMER SERIES WITH CHIARA'S LANTERN Come and explore creative pathways to the wisdom of your soul. Are you in a journaling rut? Come spice up your journal writing. This evening, participants will explore an innovative Japanese technique, haibun, as a creative way to enliven practices. Presented by Nancy Burchett from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20. For more information, call 837-9141 ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Hop on Board the Boomerang Express! Travel to the Land Down Under for a week of nonstop action. Each day's Bible Study will help kids discover how to have a relationship with Jesus. From 9 a.m.- Noon, Monday, Aug. 3 to Friday, Aug. 7 at Gatetree Church, Danville. Visit www.gatetreechurch.org to register.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - LIFE IN ABUNDANCE Journey Friday, Aug. 7 to Sunday, Aug. 9 with other women, guided by Sr. Fran Ferder, FSPA, Ph.D., D.Min. Registration is from 4-6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Concludes with lunch on Sunday. Cost is \$210 for a private room, or \$180 for a shared room. Call 925-837-9141 ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Volunteering

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

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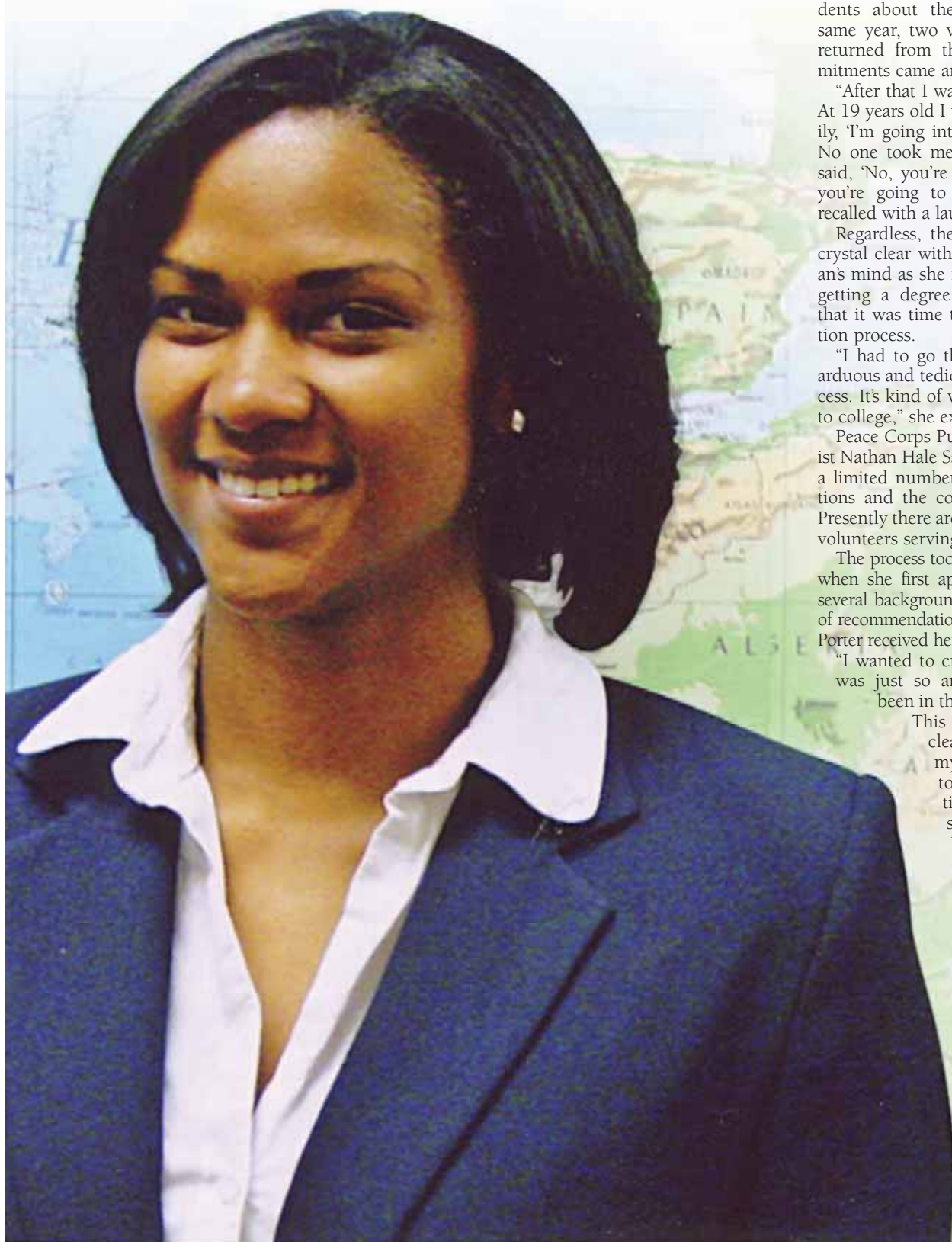
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- Sneezing
- Runny Nose
- Skin Irritation
- Itchy/Watery Eyes
- Acid Reflux
- IBS

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- Animals
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- Hayfever
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CORPS VALUES

*Danville woman heads to Cambodia
to serve in the Peace Corps*



By GEOFF GILLETTE

The concept of “Giving Back” isn’t really a new one. People who’ve had good fortune help others as a way of spreading their good karma back out into the world. There’s giving back, and then there’s Giving Back. And then there’s JaNise Porter.

The 22-year-old Danville woman has spent the majority of her young life in one form of community service or another, culminating in spending the next 27 months serving a little further afield than the Bay Area.

Porter will be living and working in Cambodia for the next two years, as a member of the Peace Corps.

“I first heard about it at Howard University,” she recalled. “I was just floored. I had never even heard of it.”

One of her business instructors had spent time in the Peace Corps during the 1960s and told the students about the experience. That same year, two volunteers who had returned from their two-year commitments came and spoke about it.

“After that I was pretty much sold. At 19 years old I used to tell my family, ‘I’m going into the Peace Corps.’ No one took me seriously. They all said, ‘No, you’re going to get a job, you’re going to grad school,’” she recalled with a laugh.

Regardless, the thought remained crystal clear within the young woman’s mind as she finished at Howard, getting a degree in business. After that it was time to start the application process.

“I had to go through a very, very arduous and tedious application process. It’s kind of worse than applying to college,” she explained.

Peace Corps Public Affairs Specialist Nathan Hale Sargent said there are a limited number of volunteer positions and the competition is fierce. Presently there are 7,876 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 76 countries.

The process took nearly a year from when she first applied, and required several background checks and letters of recommendation. But in May 2009, Porter received her invitation.

“I wanted to cry, jump, scream. It was just so amazing because it’s been in the works for so long.

This has been the one clear thing I’ve had in my mind for so long, to see it come to fruition is just amazing,” she said.

Porter credits her parents with getting her involved at an early age. She recalled serving food with her family at Glide Memorial in San Francisco, fundraising for various charities, and even making backpacks for the homeless.

Mom Terri Porter said being a part of the community and taking part in service organizations is something they always did as a family, but she said it was obvious from the start that for JaNise the urge to serve went deeper.

“We raise them with the belief that if much is given, much is expected,” she said. “JaNise kind of took it on as her personal mission in life. This was in the seventh grade. Even at Carondelet (High School) there was always the belief that you should give back.”

JaNise echoes her mother’s philosophy. “I’m extremely blessed. Two parents who support me in anything I do. A tight knit family, a good life here in Danville. So, I just think it’s necessary.”

While she is very proud of her daughter, Terri said she has misgivings about her being away in Cambodia for two years.

“We were at a family shower and she told me she’d figured out what she was going to do after college. I had a meltdown, saying, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me!’ We have always given back, but this was a whole different level.”

Porter said what concerns her is that they don’t know what the conditions will be where JaNise will be stationed. “There’s a lot of unknowns. Her living conditions—she’s going to be living with a family but she doesn’t know if there’s going to be electricity or Internet so we can talk,” she said.

JaNise left in late July for assignment. She is spending the first three months living with a host family while she undergoes training for the role she’ll play in the village where she is assigned. Part of the training will be in learning the Khmer language and part will be preparing for life in a village and the differences between Cambodian life and American.

“It’s going to be very different,” she said. “Cambodia is still developing. They don’t have western toilets. No electricity or running waters in some places. That’s going to be my experience.”

After her three months of training she will spend the next two years working as a Youth Development Director, helping teach Cambodian children English as well as working in other areas. One area she expects to be teaching is HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Despite the two-year commitment, Porter is already planning for what happens beyond that point. Graduate school at an East Coast university and then working. She added that being a part of Peace Corps has opened her eyes to more possibilities.

“Like becoming an ambassador to the United Nations,” she mused. “Even to intern there you have to be in grad school. I guess we’ll see.”

To learn more about the Peace Corps and its mission, meet returned volunteers at the Danville Library this evening from 7-8:30 p.m. who will share pictures and stories from their time abroad.

JaNise Porter has embarked on her two-year commitment to the Peace Corps in Cambodia.

COURTESY JANISE PORTER

EPICURE



By JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Cooking by ear,
a Native American treat

These days, corn is ubiquitous. Some form of it, especially cornstarch and corn sweeteners, is in practically everything we eat—from cereal to soft drinks, ice cream to cheese puffs, frozen pizza to popcorn. All too often, corn products are used to preserve or process other foods. But there's nothing like sweet corn on the cob to remind us what chin-dripping-juicy freshness tastes like.

Corn has a special place in American history. In Native American usage, the word for corn means "our life," "our mother" or "she who sustains us." It was the cultivation of corn that converted Native American tribes from nomadic to agrarian communities. Corn is descended from a seed-bearing grass called "teosinte" that still grows in Mexico. The first corn plants seem to have appeared in Mexico but the earliest ears of corn were tiny—only a few inches long. Centuries of breeding have resulted in bigger, fuller ears of corn and made corn one of the world's three leading grain crops.

Native American farmers in the Ohio River Valley had been growing corn for more than 1,700 years before the first "immigrants" crossed the Appalachian Mountains, and there is evidence that they used corn to brew beer before Europeans

arrived in the Americas. Pawtuxet Indians in Massachusetts introduced corn to the first American settlers and taught them how to grow and cook with it. Without corn, the Pilgrims of Plymouth colony might have starved to death during their first year in America. Considering its history, it's no wonder that corn has become such a staple in our culinary habits.

Corn's sugars quickly revert to starch as the corn ages, so when selecting corn on the cob, freshness is the No. 1 factor. Locate a reliable source and look for ears snugly wrapped in green, pliable husks that are not dried out. Run your fingers along the husks; you should be able to feel juicy-plump, tightly packed kernels all the way to the top. Once bought, cook the fresh corn as soon as possible. Or, wrap the husks in damp paper towels, and store in zip-locked bags in the refrigerator for no more than two days.

Instead of drenching a cob with butter, consider this popular Mexican way of serving an ear of corn: Squeeze lime over the kernels and sprinkle with chile powder or paprika. Salt to taste and serve. Or, try my favorite way, grilling. Listen (with all ears), it doesn't get any easier than that to enjoy fresh corn this summer!

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in San Ramon with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cook-books and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at jlovemarshall@yahoo.com.

Recipes

Grilling Corn on the Cob

Remove husks, except for the 1-2 innermost layers. Gently fold back that layer, being careful not to tear or remove it, and remove as much of the silk as you can. Soak the cobs in cold water for about 15 minutes.

Brush the kernels lightly with olive oil or vegetable spray and, if desired, season the cob with black pepper, nutmeg, garlic, etc. Pull the husk back into place to cover the cob.

Place the cobs on a hot grill and cover. When the husk is fully browned on one side, 2-3 minutes, turn the cobs to brown on the other side, 5-6 minutes total. Serve immediately.

Avocado-Corn Salsa (1-1/2 cups)

■ 2 small/medium ripe avocados, peeled, seeded, and finely diced

■ 1 cup fresh corn kernels (about 2 ears), preferably kernels that have been grilled

■ 2 medium tomatoes, seeded and finely diced

■ 2-3 Tbsp lime juice

■ 1 Tbsp finely chopped fresh cilantro

■ 1/2-1 tsp minced hot green chile peppers

■ 1/2 tsp salt

■ Pepper to taste

In a medium bowl, gently combine avocado, corn kernels, tomatoes, lime juice, cilantro, chile peppers, salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Toasted Corn, Tomato and Edamame Salad (serves 4-6)

■ 1 cup frozen shelled edamame

■ 5 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

■ 2-1/4 cups fresh corn kernels (about 2-3 ears)

■ 2 Tbsp plain low-fat yogurt

■ 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice

■ 1 tsp honey

■ 1/2 tsp minced garlic

■ Kosher salt

■ Freshly ground pepper

■ 1 heaping cup quartered cherry tomatoes (about 15)

■ 1/4 cup very thinly sliced fresh mint

■ 1/4 cup very thinly sliced fresh basil

1. Cook the edamame according to package directions. Drain, and set aside to cool.

2. Heat 1 Tbsp of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the corn and cook, stirring occasionally, until the kernels are golden brown in patches, about 9 minutes. Transfer to a bowl to cool.

3. In a small bowl, whisk the yogurt, lemon juice, honey, garlic and 1/4 tsp salt. Slowly pour in the remaining 4 Tbsp olive oil, whisking mixture until fully blended. Season with salt and pepper.

4. In a serving bowl, combine edamame, corn, tomatoes and herbs. Gently toss with half of the vinaigrette. Add more vinaigrette, salt and pepper to taste. Serve at room temperature.

Search a complete Restaurant Listing on DanvilleWeekly.com

Forks Corks & More

AMERICAN

Bridges Restaurant & Bar

44 Church Street, Danville, (925) 820-7200. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Dinner nightly. 3 Course Dinner Sunday-Wednesday nights \$27.

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www.bridgesdanville.com

PIZZA

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

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

WINE - RETAIL/TASTING

The Vine at Bridges

480 Hartz Avenue, Downtown Danville. 820-7210. Wine Shop open Tuesday-Sunday. Wine Bar open every evening with the exception of Sunday. New Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. Happy Hour includes 2 different tastes for only \$10, \$6 pizzettas, \$3 beers and \$1 olives. Live music Wednesday-Saturday. Thursday night winemaker tastings.

8/6 - McPhail Wines 6-8 p.m. \$20

8/13 - Italian Tasting with Angelino from Vinity 6-8 p.m. \$10

8/20 - Hot Summer Nights and Flora Spring Winery 5-8 p.m. \$10

8/27 - Aubin Verve Tasting 6-8 p.m.

For more information about events please visit www.thevineatbridges.com



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READ MORE/COMMENT

TownSquare Forum

PRESENTING THE PAST

By BEVERLY LANE



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

The original St. Isidore Church in Danville, at the corner of Hartz Avenue and Linda Mesa, was dedicated in 1912.

St Isidore's celebrates a centennial, Part 1

St. Isidore's Catholic parish was founded in 1910 in Danville. But that date certainly doesn't mark the first Catholic service here.

In 1772, before the founding of Mission Dolores in San Francisco, Father Juan Crespi accompanied the Fages expedition through the San Ramon Valley. He may well have presided over a Mass at their camp site in Danville. In Crespi's diary entry for March 31, 1772, he said, "This valley appeared to me to be a charming site for a settlement (mission), with all the advantages that are required."

The next known Mass took place here in 1875 at the home of Edward and Mary McCauley, celebrated in Green Valley on the occasion of a sick call by the Dominican Rev. James H. Aerden. At this time Father Aerden set up a regular celebration of Mass at the Alamo Hotel Hall on the fifth Sunday of each month.

Eight years later, in 1883, the Rev. Lawrence Serda took charge of Walnut Creek, Lafayette and Moraga Valley and celebrated Mass for a congregation composed of 10 families in the Walnut Creek Grange Hall on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In 1884, on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Antone Silva Botelho, a church was constructed in Walnut Creek and dedicated in two services, one in Portuguese and one in English.

According to the Walnut Creek Courier Journal, "On April 20, 1910, Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan established Danville as a parish center, appointing the Rev. John Collins as the first pastor. St. Mary's Mission of Walnut Creek was then detached from Martinez and transferred to the parish of Danville.

"Father Collins gathered his congregation for Sunday Mass at the Grange Hall in Danville, living the while in the Danville Hotel until the church and rectory were completed late in the year 1911. St. Isidore's church in Danville is built according to the Mission style of architecture. It is a frame building with a seating capacity of 300. In 1913 the Rev. J.J. Hennissey added a bell tower to the original structure.

"The church and rectory cost \$11,000. Located at the corner of Hartz Avenue and Linda Mesa, the church was dedicated by Archbishop Riordan on July 28, 1912. Father Peter C. Yorke preached the dedication ser-

mon."

St. Isidore's Golden Jubilee program states: "The firm of Shea and Loquist was selected as the architects, while the contract for the buildings was given to Stanley and Archer. ... The new parish of St. Isidore embraced expansive boundaries, taking in the Tassajara School District, bordering Livermore and Pleasanton, touching the Hayward and Oakland parishes on the west, including Moraga Valley and Orinda, and the boundaries of the Martinez and Concord parishes to the north, and along to the eastern slopes of Mount Diablo."

Other parishes were formed from St. Isidore's beginning in 1941. In 1960 the parish boundaries went to Livorna Road, the County line on south and the Morgan Territory on the eastern slope of Mount Diablo.

Chuck Ferreira remembered the friendly Father Plunkett with a funny anecdote recently. In the 1950s, when he and friends attended a Catholic education class after school one day a week, the boys occasionally gave the nuns some problems. Sister sent them to Father Plunkett for another level of discipline. After saying they needed to behave, he gave them candy and sent them on their way. Perhaps a different message than Sister had in mind!

As the Valley's population swelled after World War II, the congregation outgrew the original church and a new St. Isidore's church was completed on La Gonda Way. In 1960 the congregation celebrated its Golden Jubilee, dedicating the program to Father Henry Plunkett who served the church from 1951 to 1958.

In 1963 the old building was razed while many in the congregation watched with sorrow. Tony Cabral, who had worked on the church when he was just 22, said only the finest materials were used and it "was built better than the buildings of today."

He saved some wrought iron railing and a large post from the wreckage. Lena Ferreira recalled that her mother, Mary, cared for the altar and did much of the maintenance work in the church for 35 consecutive years.

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories." Sources: Museum archives, *The Fages-Crespi Expedition of 1772*, p. 21; *Walnut Creek Courier Journal*, July 29, 1937; *St. Isidore's Jubilee Program*; *Valley Pioneer*, Dec. 18, 1963; *Chuck Ferreira*, Aug. 1, 2007

OF NOTE



Donating to Kids' Country

Executive Director of Kids' Country Chris Erbe (second from left) receives a check from the Rotary Club of Cordelia to send a child to Getaway Camp, shown with (l-r) Club President Thomas Kawazoe and team members Bill James and Dennis Kelly. "Due to the economy this year, a young man who wanted desperately to go to Getaway Camp was told by his parents they couldn't afford to send him this year. With this donation from the Rotary Club, the young man can now attend," said Erbe.

In April, Erbe and fellow team members rode as the Rotary Club of Cordelia's Cycle for Sight riding team on a challenging course through the Napa Valley that includes a 1,700-foot climb up Mount Veder. With sponsorships from fellow Rotarians and family members, the riders were able to raise money for both a camp scholarship as well as Enchanted Hills Camp for the blind and visually impaired.

Kids' Country is a nonprofit corporation that provides affordable child care before and after school during the school year and all day during school and summer vacations at 13 sites in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Downtown Pleasanton's

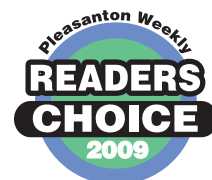
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Best Place to Meet New People
(Farmer's Market)

Best Place for Live Music
(Friday Concerts in the Park)



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.



U14 Mustangs Blast their way to become U.S. champs

The U14 Mustang Blast Girls played to the top of the heap in Lancaster, Mass., on July 26, beating North Carolina, 1-0, in the championship game. For one year, team members forfeited their social lives in exchange for grueling practices, self-imposed conditioning and continual tournaments. They persevered despite broken ankles, ripped thumbs and one full-on ACL reconstructive surgery to rise at Regionals, paving the way for Nationals.

Going in to the finals, the first half of the game was a dead lock. After a short period of rejuvenation, the second half saw Rachel Hamilton set up for a solid corner kick, allowing Stephanie Amack to answer with a launch into the net, giving the Blast their opportunity to win. Snatching the championship became even sweeter when the Blast's goalie, Beth Ritter, was awarded the Golden Gloves for an awesome performance throughout the tournament.

Team members are Head Trainer Carl Edwards, Beth Ritter, Stephanie Amack, Reilly Parker, Alexa Vandevanter, Hannah Koski, Assistant Coach Rob Vandevanter, Alyssa Alarab, Lynsey Hromatko, Rachel Hamilton, Katie Greulich, Head Coach Doug Norvelle, Rachel Feldman, Kim Low, Shelby Cota, Morgan Idso, Angie Johnson and Katelyn Rader.



COURTESY DARLA VOROUS

Lightning strikes for SRVGAL team

Team Lightning of SRVGAL 3/4 Grade Blue Division recently completed its 2009 season with a first-place finish. The girls Blue Division team capped out the season with a 12-2 record, taking them to the top spot for the division. Pictured (back row, l-r) are Coach Rob Hensley, Erika Wheeler, Sam Vorous, Olivia Duba, Ellie Stark, Gracie Westgate, Coach Tim Huether, (front) Abby Leeds, Gena Galeano, Helena Huether, Claire Whitten, Hailey Meyer, Maggie Hensley and Gianna Cefalu.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Tigers roar: We are the champs!

The SRV Majors Tigers team recently took home the Championship Trophy in the San Ramon Valley Little League, going undefeated through the playoffs and beating the Giants for the League Championship, 7-2. Daniel Paulus pitched a complete game for the win and Colin Schletz connected for two doubles off the wall for the Champs. Tiger Team members are (front row, l-r) Coach John Quinn, Dominic Tovani, T-Rex Grauman, Mikey Quinn, Colin Schletz, Brent Smoller, (back) Coach Jon Schletz, Johnny Quinn, Daniel Paulus, Matt LaBrie, Matt French, Savan Nock-Salgado, Scott French, and Manager Dave Paulus.



Kung Fu grand champs

The team from Richard Lee's East West Kung Fu in Alamo won top honors at the 2009 U.S. Kuoshu Federation International Championship held July 25-26 in Hunt Valley, Md. East West won first place for the Team Lei Tai (full contact fighting); second place for the Team Forms and Weapons; and, for the ninth year in a row, won the Team Grand Champion trophy.

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2009

Alamo

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$415,000
Highest sale reported: \$415,000
Average sales reported: \$415,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 8

Lowest sale reported: \$283,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,400,000
Average sales reported: \$813,875

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: \$135,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,105,000
Average sales reported: \$525,220

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

4 BEDROOMS
136 Nanterre Street \$828,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 621-4067

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS
8057 Crossridge Road \$689,000
 Sun 1-5 Cambridge Real Estate 426-7469

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS
5625 San Jose Drive \$697,000
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3800

4 BEDROOMS
3737 Nicole Avenue \$1,550,000
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416

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

2345 Greenwood Road \$679,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

3484 Park Place \$779,950
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2535

5937 Via Del Cielo \$880,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080

5 BEDROOMS
4 Eaglet Court \$1,995,000
 Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

1531 Honeysuckle Court \$2,399,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 413-9306

6 BEDROOMS
7193 Rosecliff Court \$1,699,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080

10102 Foxboro Circle, San Ramon



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 11442 Winding Trails Lane
 Dublin



Enjoy Starbucks Coffee, Desserts, and Fabulous Purses in these two Wonderful homes.

We will also be collecting donations for the PPIE during these Open Houses. Posh Purses owner Leslie. E-mail Leslianne9361@aol.com.

Please also visit us During the PPIE's Pleasanton Downtown Carnival Saturday, August 8th, 5pm - 9pm in Downtown Pleasanton.

We will be sponsoring the Games 2 U booth with video games for kids of all ages...come by and say "Hi!"
 Remember a portion from EVERY commission goes to the PPIE, or Charity of your choice, minimum of \$1,000



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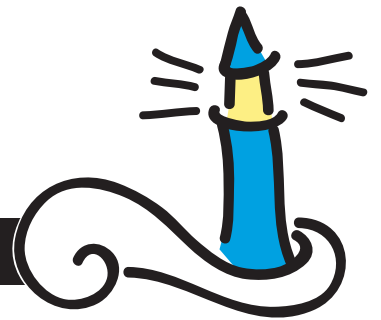
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202 Vehicles Wanted

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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 & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 1817 Sinclair Drive, Aug. 1, 7 a.m.
Multi-family yard sale to benefit Congregational Youth Group. Furniture, T.V., books, clothes, household goods, kid stuff. Great bargains for a good cause. From Mohr, left on Kamp, left on Sinclair. Pleasanton, 3038 Warrenton Court, Sat, July 11, 8am -1pm

Pleasanton, 3146 Boardwalk Street, Sat, July 11, 8am - 1pm
Pleasanton, 4100 First Street, August 1 8:15 - 2 PM

Pleasanton, 538 Grapevine Drive, August 1, 7-3
Glass comp desk, Lord of the Rings glasses, child's keybd. Child/pet toys. Michael Parkes, glass/bamboo coffee table, 3 sec green screen.

Pleasanton, 611 Windmill Lane, August 1; 8 am to 4 pm
Downsizing and must get rid of some treasures!! Kids toys, beautiful, new little girl furniture set, jewelry, clothing, home decor, vases, holiday decorations and MUCH more...swing by.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

O'Keefe & Merritt Gas Stove
Works well. Needs small repair, plus cleaning. Pick up Pleasanton. Call (925)462-2906 or (510)376-2442

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220 Computers/Electronics

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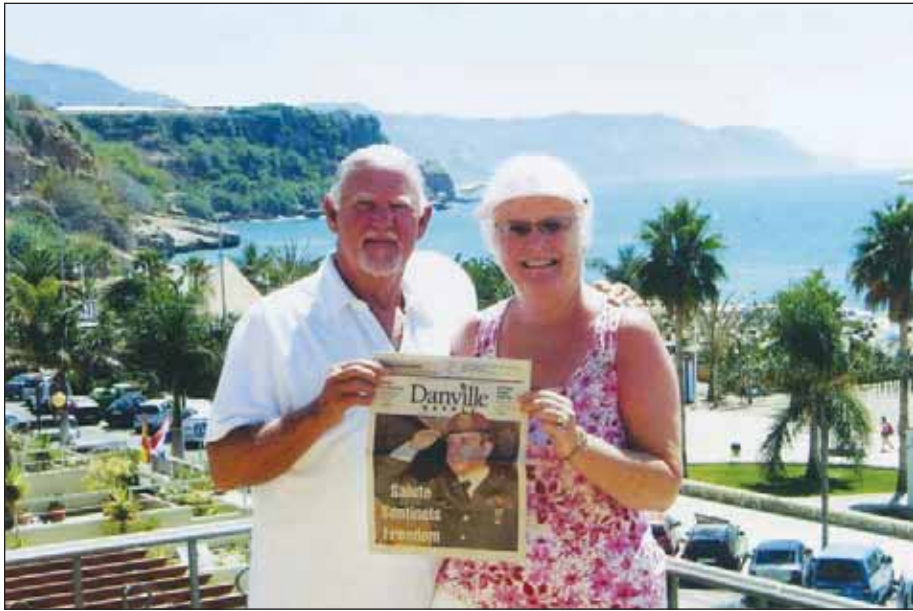
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TAKE US ALONG



The lure of the Mediterranean: Danville residents Frank and Jane Felicelli enjoy their Weekly in Vernazza, a small town in the Cinque Terre region of Italy while on vacation in July 2008.



Where the sun is el sol: Wayne and Marilyn Weible enjoy their weekly in Nerja, Spain, on the Costa Del Sol.

PET OF THE WEEK

Giddy Gidget

Meet Gidget, a female Mastiff mix described by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue volunteers as being "exceptionally nice." Gidget is very sociable and volunteers take her to TVAR adoption fairs at Farmer's Market in downtown Pleasanton on Saturdays where she gets to "hang out" with foster dogs and show off her loving personality. Gidget bonds quickly with adults and children. She walks nicely on a leash and loves belly rubs. Though daily exercise is recommended, Gidget doesn't require an active household and she may be just as happy sharing a spot on the couch with you. Gidget is between 3 and 5 years old and she has obviously had puppies in the past. After that, for Gidget, "hang-ten" took on a whole new meaning! Visit this gentle dog (pet #86110) at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays or 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. Visit www.tvvar.org and watch a new video to learn more about Tri-Valley Animal Rescue and see photos of the many pets in foster care that are available for adoption.



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