

Danville Weekly

Councilman gravely ill: Mike Shimansky battling bacterial meningitis PAGE 5

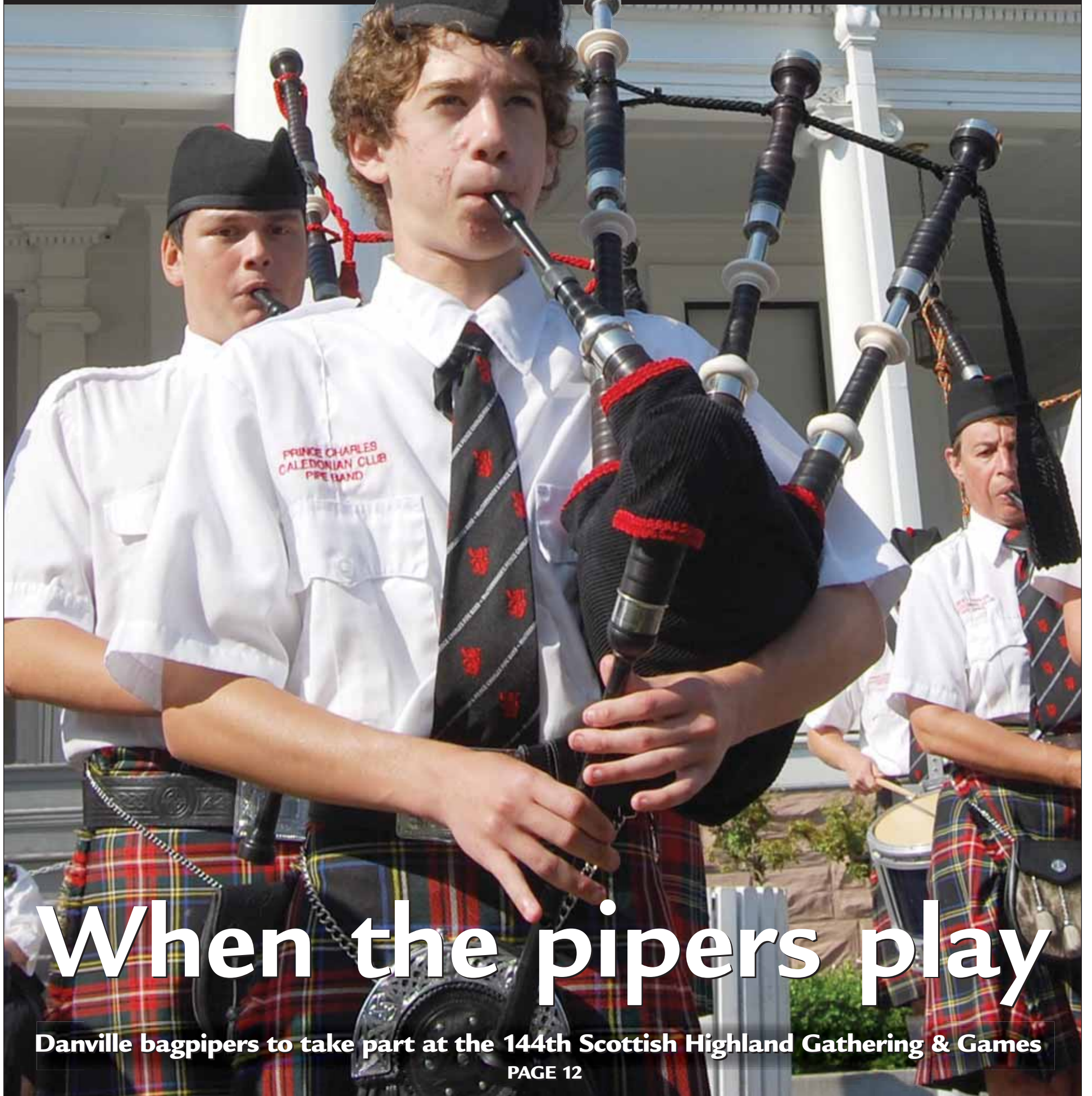
Father Frank's Kids: Parish supports Latin American orphanages PAGE 16

INSIDE

Vol. V, Number 18 • August 28, 2009

Ma... ckh... Danville and Diablo

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When the pipers play

Danville bagpipers to take part at the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

PAGE 12

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Jim Wood, SF Examiner



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Streetwise

ASKED ON THE IRON HORSE TRAIL

How prepared are you for a disaster?



Gregory Roth

civil engineer — department of transportation

I am relatively prepared in terms of the emergency response system. Personally, I have an earthquake preparedness kit and know what utilities to turn off. I live alone, but I think most people around here are complacent and don't think about it. Many have experienced an earthquake and feel they could survive it again.

Danielle Kehrig

St. Isidore sixth-grade teacher (on leave)

We had an earthquake preparedness class at school taught by a CERT trainer. I took some of those ideas home, like having an emergency meeting place, filling up backpacks with supplies for our cars, buying a big storage can to store supplies in the back yard, and putting important documents on a flash drive to mail to someone outside the area.



Dale Haukland

retired VP Kentucky Fried Chicken

We have a plastic box stored in the garage with essentials, such as water, canned foods, etc. I also have a backpack that I bought filled with medical supplies in the garage. We always have a cell phone with us with important numbers programmed in it. This reminds me that we need to revisit those supplies for updating.

Tim Moore

accountant

We're not really too prepared. We have some earthquake supplies and one of those disaster kits, but it hasn't been checked for awhile. I was working in a high rise in San Francisco during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and got a lucky ride out of there to make it home by 3 a.m. My last comment is the Boy Scouts' motto, "Be prepared!"



Megan Andreosky

fiber optics analyst

A disaster to a mother of a 3-year-old boy could mean many things, including a financial disaster. If you're talking about a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, then I don't think I could ever be prepared enough for that, including keeping the right supplies on hand. This must be an omen, because I just received my earthquake insurance bill.

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Danville resident Nick Theriault, 15, plays with the Prince Charles Caledonian Club Band and can be seen around town performing bagpipe solos at weddings, memorials and parades. He will be competing in the Scottish Games at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton over Labor Day weekend. Photo courtesy Theriault family.

Vol. V, Number 18

2009-2010 info A RESOURCE GUIDE



Mailed to homes in Danville, Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk this September.

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SPEAKER
Charles Wen, M.D.
Urologist

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Mike is someone who is so strong in spirit and energy that we hope he'll make a very strong recovery."

Councilwoman Candace Andersen about Councilman Mike Shimansky who is in serious condition with bacterial meningitis. See story, PAGE 5

NEWS DIGEST

Two-city read starts Monday for Danville and San Ramon

The residents of Danville and San Ramon will begin Aug. 31 to read a book en masse as part of the "Two Cities, One Tale" joint CityRead 2009 program that will last through Oct. 12. The book chosen for the six-week read is "Assassination Vacation," by Sarah Vowell. It takes readers on a pilgrimage to the sites that pay homage to assassinated presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley.

Librarians call it a "witty and engaging non-fiction book." Free copies of the book will be available at the Danville and San Ramon libraries and participating businesses.

The CityRead will include a presentation on "Abraham Lincoln at 200 — In Fact Rather than Fiction" at the Danville Community Center co-sponsored by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24. Another event will feature the author at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free but must be reserved; call 973-2787.

CityRead is sponsored by the Danville and San Ramon Library Foundations.

Film Fest moves to Orinda; Tippi Hedren to attend fundraiser

The California Independent Film Festival Association has moved its 2010 Film Festival to Orinda, its board members announced, after seven seasons in Livermore. The association also sponsors the International Children's Film Festival in Danville every spring.

Next year's Independent Film Festival is scheduled for April 22-25, and will take place at the historic Orinda Theater. The board is confident that the festival will survive tough economic times with this move to Contra Costa County, closer to Oakland and a BART ride from San Francisco.

The film association is holding a fundraising screening of "The Birds" with special guest Tippi Hedren, who starred in the Alfred Hitchcock film in 1963.

The event takes place at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, at the Orinda Theater and also benefits Hedren's Roar Foundation-Shambala Preserve.

The refuge for wild animals was first established as an "African" set for the motion picture, "Roar," which Hedren co-produced and starred in with her daughter, film actress Melanie Griffith. Purchase tickets online at www.caiff.org or call 277-1355. The \$20 admission includes a Q&A with Hedren. A \$125 package also includes dinner.

Nominations due for Senior Volunteer Awards

Nominations are due Monday to honor seniors, 55 or older, who have provided extraordinary volunteer service in Contra Costa County in 2008. The second annual Senior Volunteer Awards are being sponsored by the Culture to Culture Foundation, which is based in Alamo.

Each senior must be nominated by another person, with a description of the volunteer activities in 500 words or less, and include the senior's age, address and telephone number as well as three references. Win-

ners will each receive \$250, to be presented Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek.

Send nominations or questions to seniorawards@sbcglobal.net.

Special election to take place Tuesday, Sept. 1

The Aug. 11 debate for Tuesday's special election for Congressional District 10 to replace Ellen Tauscher will be aired by Comcast as follows on Channel 28 in Walnut Creek, and Channel 26 in Central County:

- 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28
- 4 p.m., 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29
- 9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30

The candidates for the District 10 seat are five Democrats: State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan of Alamo; State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier from Concord; Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a rancher from Walnut Grove; Adriel Hampton, an investigator from Dublin; and economic policy analyst and Iraq War veteran Anthony Woods of Fairfield.

The six Republican candidates are Christopher Bunch, a contractor from Fairfield; retired peace officer Gary Clift of Vacaville; David Harmer, an attorney who lives in Dougherty Valley; small business owner Mark Loos of Livermore; David Peterson of Walnut Creek, who owns a small business; and John Toth, a physician from Pleasant Hill.

Also on the ballot are office worker Mary McIlroy of El Cerrito, running as a member of the Peace and Freedom Party; community college professor Jeremy Cloward of Pleasant Hill, with the Green Party; and insurance agent Jerome Denham of Walnut Creek, a member of the American Independent Party.

Those getting the most votes in their party Sept. 1 will face off in the Nov. 3 special general election unless one candidate receives 50 percent of the vote plus one.

Tauscher (D., Alamo) resigned June 26 to serve as undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security with the State Department.

Special Olympics invite everyone to watch regional play

Some 500 Special Olympics Northern California softball players will compete in a two-day regional competition this weekend at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek.

The athletes consist of 35 teams and 60 individual skills participants from Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma, Santa Clara, Marin, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

The opening is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday on Field 4 with the individual skills contests taking place from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Games will take place 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for both children and adults with developmental disabilities.

More than 13,000 athletes compete in over 170 competitions throughout the region in 15 sports. Programs are free to all eligible athletes.

Financial support comes almost exclusively from individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations. There continues to be a great need for volunteers and financial support to maintain services to this growing population.

Visit www.SONC.org.

Corrections

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

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GEOFF GILLETTE

Principal Paul Foucart gives students a high five at the new Creekside Elementary School on the first day of school Tuesday.

Councilman hospitalized with meningitis

Shimansky still in intensive care after 9 days

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Long time Danville Town Council member Mike Shimansky was listed in serious condition Wednesday in a San Diego hospital, where he is being treated for bacterial meningitis.

Shimansky, 65, was in San Diego on Aug. 17 visiting with his son, daughter and grandchildren when he exhibited flu-like symptoms. He was hospitalized later that day and has been in the ICU in a drug-induced coma since his admission.

Doctors are treating the meningitis as well as secondary conditions that have been brought about by the bacterial infection. One of the secondary conditions caused Shimansky to undergo surgery last Friday for the amputation of his feet.

According to a statement issued by the Town of Danville, Shimansky's condition has stabilized, but he has yet to regain consciousness.

Meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord, is caused by either a viral or bacterial infection. Bacterial Meningitis is considered to be the more severe version of the illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Symptoms include high fever, headache and vomiting.

A member of the Town Council for 20 years, Shimansky has been mayor three times. He resides in town with his wife Sue and daughter Cyndi.

Fellow council member Karen Stepper said she is hopeful that Shimansky will be able to make a good recovery from the illness. She said that the pair has a long history together, even before they were on the council.

"We go back a long way. Mike and my husband coached his daughter Cyndi and my daughter Shannon in soccer back when they were 7 years old," she recalled. She added, "Our prayers are with them. We're hoping as he wakes up he gets stronger."

Another colleague, Councilwoman Candace Andersen, said she holds out high hopes for Shimansky's recovery.

"Mike is someone who is so strong in spirit and energy that we hope he'll make a very strong recovery," she said.

Town officials have asked that well wishers direct any e-mails to shimansky@msn.com. Get well cards may be sent to Mike in care of the Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way, Danville 94526. Cards will be forwarded on to the Shimansky family. ■



Mike Shimansky
The Danville Town Council member is battling bacterial meningitis.

New elementary school off to a grand start

By GEOFF GILLETTE

The first day of school is always an exciting time, but never more so than when a brand new school welcomes in its first crop of students into a new facility. Such was the case Tuesday when the school district's newest school, Creekside Elementary, opened its doors.

The brand new facility in the Alamo Creek subdivision on Camino Tassajara is a unique fixture in the area, the first two-story elementary

Creekside opens its doors to new student body

school in the district. Where most elementary schools in the San Ramon Valley are laid out in the "open campus" style with several small buildings spread out across the school grounds, Creekside concentrates all of its classrooms in one large building.

The school, funded and built by Shapell Homes, departed from the

norm for district elementary schools because of the dictates of the parcel. Because of its shape and topography, architects found that building up rather than out was a more efficient use of the space.

Technology is a key component of the new facility. Principal Paul Foucart said the entire facility is set up for wireless Internet connectivity and the school has a sizable cache of laptops to provide classrooms with full access to computers.

See **CREEKSIDE** on Page 8

Released murder suspect is back in custody

By GEOFF GILLETTE

An Alameda County teenager arrested in connection with the January slaying of 17-year-old Rylan Fuchs is back in custody after being released from juvenile detention under a home monitoring program.

The 15-year-old suspect was arrested three days after the killing of the San Ramon Valley High School student and was held at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center on an unrelated charge.

The suspect was placed under GPS monitoring as a condition of his probation on the other charge,

according to officials. Alameda County Assistant Chief of Probation Bill Fenton said that GPS monitoring is the most severe level of home detention available to a judge during the sentencing process.

"Under GPS monitoring, we know where you are 24 hours a day, where you went, how long you spent there," he explained.

Juveniles placed under this level of probation are given an allotted area where they must stay. Leaving the area sets off an alarm, and juvenile officers respond to the home of the offender. If the juvenile has left the premises, he is arrested and

Teen arrested in Fuchs homicide arrested for probation violation

returned to the detention center and must go back before a judge.

Capt. Dan Terry, head of the Investigations Division for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, said that the suspect had been released into the custody of his grandmother in Oakland during the last few weeks. Terry said the teenager was placed under the monitoring program at that time.

The suspect, believed to be involved in the shooting death of Fuchs, violated the terms of his probation and was taken back into custody. Because the suspect is a juvenile, details of the probation violation were not released.

In addition to any charges leveled against the juvenile as a result of the probation violation, Terry said the teen has other cases pending against him, including one charge of armed robbery.

Terry said that while charges have yet to be filed against this suspect, the Fuchs case is continuing to move forward and investigators

have followed several leads that could result in further arrests.

"We've pretty clearly identified people we know who are involved in this thing," he explained. "However, the District Attorney is looking to just tighten things up."

Deputy District Attorney Dan Cabral, who is handling the investigation for the D.A.'s office, said in June that his office was getting closer to making arrests in the case. As of late last week, Cabral said investigators are still working with the evidence and making sure the case is solid before moving forward with any arrests. ■

DUI crackdown is under way

New program will run through early September

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

In an effort to curb the number of deaths that occur annually as a result of impaired driving, members of 25 law enforcement agencies are banding together for a full-on mobilization to crack down until Sept. 7 on drinking and driving.

Agencies participating in the Avoid the 25 enforcement effort mobilized to begin Aug. 21. They will join thousands of other law enforcement and highway safety agencies throughout the nation as they take part in the Drunk Driving — Over the Limit — Under Arrest crackdown.

Avoid the 25 Coordinator Sgt. David Cook of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department said that the thrust of their effort is to curtail drunken driving.

"Make no mistake. Our message is simple," he said. "No matter if you're driving or riding a motorcycle if we catch you driving impaired we will arrest you. No exceptions. No excuses."

Statistics provided by the Sheriff's Department show that drunken driving is one of the deadliest

crimes in the U.S. In 2008, more than 11,700 people died in high-way crashes involving a vehicle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

California statistics show that in 2008 there were 1,029 traffic fatalities related to drunken driving. That number is down 9 percent from the previous year.

Cook said that having the patrols out there and bringing a heightened state of awareness to impaired driving will help to continue bringing those statistics down.

"We will be out in force to get more drunk drivers off the road and save lives that might otherwise be lost," he said.

Enforcement operations are scheduled before Sept. 7 in Martinez, El Cerrito and Pittsburg. In addition, a DUI saturation patrol, DUI warrant arrest team and other operations have been set for the mobilization period.

The Avoid the 25 program is part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. More information on the program can be found at www.stopimpaired-driving.com. ■



JIM COLEMAN

Dancing in the sunset

Music in the Park concluded for Danville on Saturday evening with a performance by "Take 2" and a beautiful sunset. The popular events at Oak Hill Park throughout the summer, sponsored by the Town of Danville, are a favorite way for families to enjoy a fun night out and the camaraderie of the community.



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GEOFF GILLETTE



Hot Summer Nights draws thousands

The weather could not have been better last Thursday as residents flocked downtown to check out the cool cars on display as part of the Hot Summer Nights. Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel said the event brought in an estimated 10,000 people to downtown Danville. Hot Summer Nights features dozens of classic automobiles, from muscle cars to ambulances to military vehicles to Hartz Avenue and the surrounding streets. Residents and visitors were able to enjoy live music, shaved ice, weight lifting demonstrations and all that downtown Danville has to offer. Traffic was rerouted around the downtown for the several hours, but no significant backups were reported. Wenzel said there were few problems that night, with the only police activity being the theft of four motorcycles.

Measure C oversight committee

Residents in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District interested in overseeing expenditures of the funds raised from the Measure C parcel tax are encouraged to apply for an oversight committee.

As part of the ballot language for the parcel tax, a committee must be formed to provide oversight to ensure that Measure C funds are spent for purposes approved by the voters.

The committee will have nine community members. Both a member of the school board and someone from the superintendent's staff will serve in a non-voting capacity. Terms will be staggered so that half will end every two years. No more than two consecutive terms will be allowed.

Persons interested in participating in the committee are urged to fill out and return the application form located on the district's Web site, www.srvusd.net. Applications must be turned in no later than Sept. 30.

District officials will review applications and make recommendations to the board members, which they will vote on at their Oct. 20 meeting.

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Pilot bus program off to strong start

Slight delays experienced as buses get rolling

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

For the first time in years, students lined up curbside at locations throughout the San Ramon Valley Unified School District waiting for school buses as part of the new Traffix program.

Danville Transportation Director Tai Williams, one of the architects of Traffix, said they were very pleased with the first run of the bus service.

"It was quite an exciting morning," she said. "We had a few hiccups, but this is all part of the first day of operation and despite those hiccups we felt it went very well."

Williams said that students going to Pine Valley Middle School found themselves tardy as a result of unexpected traffic on southbound I-680. She added that now the drivers are aware of what to expect so they can plan accordingly.

"We're making sure all the wrinkles get ironed out and we're going to be making sure the rest of the week goes smoothly," she stated.

Traffix is a program that was created through Measure J funds, designed to reduce traffic congestion around schools. There are a total of seven schools receiving bus service as part of the pilot program.

Officials worked all summer to lay out the routes and run test drives with the brand new school buses. At the same time, they were getting the word out about the program and encouraging parents to purchase their bus passes online. Up until Tuesday, passes cost \$200. Once school was under

way, the price went up to \$250.

Excitement over the new program was high on the first day of school, which may have kept the program from reducing congestion as much as it might have otherwise.

Town Councilwoman Karen Stepper lives near Green Valley Elementary School and said she was surprised to see parents and kids lining up on the street Tuesday morning.

"Every family in my neighborhood has signed up for it. They're all so excited about having the bus and getting their kids to school safely," Stepper said.

She went to the elementary school to watch the buses come in. She added with a laugh that she saw some of the parents arrive at the school just to take pictures of their kids getting off the bus.

Six buses brought students to Green Valley and Stepper said there were quite a number of children getting off the buses.

"I heard one mom say, 'Oh wow, look at the kids get off. That's one less car for each kid,'" she recalled.

Williams was thrilled with the reaction among parents and students.

"I think it's really terrific to hear that the parents were so excited about it," she said.

While the pilot program for Traffix calls for only those seven schools to receive bus service, Williams said the long range plan is to expand with the expectation that as ridership goes up, congestion in those areas will go down. ■

Changes at Blackhawk Plaza

Exercise giant Bally's leaving, three new restaurants moving in

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Blackhawk Plaza will be seeing a lot of changes in the near future as some stores and services are leaving and new ones are moving in.

In two cases, one business is leaving and a similar one is being slotted into the same space. One such case is Bally's; the gym is leaving its space, to be replaced by East Coast-based Crunch Fitness.

Blackhawk Plaza Marketing Director Ashleigh Tharp said she is expecting Crunch to come sometime during September.

"They'll be making some improvements on the space and then switch it over," Tharp explained.

"They've got some amazing equipment. Really new types of workouts they'll be incorporating."

Another mainstay of the Plaza, Coldstone Creamery, will also be vacating its space in the next few months, to be replaced by San Francisco-based Tuttimelon, a frozen yogurt shop. Tharp said no definite timeline has been set for when Coldstone's departure and Tuttimelon's arrival.

Tharp said that other businesses also will be coming in during the fall including three new restaurants by Executive Chef Matthew Silverman. The first, Stomp, will open before Labor Day. Tharp described

this new eatery as a "small plates and wine lounge" establishment.

In September, Coa, a contemporary Mexican restaurant will open. And in mid-October, Laurus, a southern European-style bistro will begin serving customers.

In the next two weeks, Geoffrey Cooper, creator of the women's fashion store Geoffrey Scott is expected to open a boutique aimed at teens and tweens. GBop will offer clothing and jewelry targeted at a younger clientele than the Geoffrey Scott stores.

"We've just got a lot of things going on right now," said Tharp. "It's been quite a year for Blackhawk Plaza." ■



GEOFF GILLETTE

The new Creekside Elementary is the only two-story school in the district, built by Shapell Homes in the Alamo Creek subdivision.

CREEKSIDE

Continued from Page 5

"We have over 70 laptops set up in a COW (Computers on Wheels) system," Foucart stated. "We can put them in any classroom, and the students can use them for projects or to assist in learning."

In addition, there are 10 desktop MACs available to students in the school's library.

Each classroom comes complete with an LCD projector as well as a sophisticated "sound field" to help students in the learning process.

"Teachers wear a wireless microphone," explained Foucart. "The

sound field makes it possible for the students to hear everything the teacher says, even when they are turned and facing the board."

Total capacity of Creekside is set at 720 students. Foucart said that when they opened their doors Tuesday the student population was already at 480. ■

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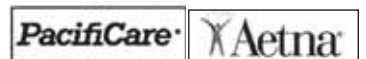
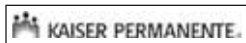
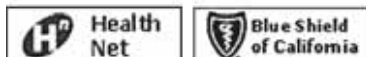


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Ken Sandy steps down from fire board

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District will be without a longstanding resource, as Board Member Ken Sandy announced his resignation this week.

Sandy presented the Board of Directors with his resignation at Tuesday's meeting, citing health reasons. Directors reluctantly accepted the resignation, effective immediately.

Sandy served on the fire board for 14 years. In addition he was the first police chief in Danville. Colleagues say both of those posi-

tions have given Sandy a unique perspective on emergency services in the Fire District.

Fire Chief Richard Price said Sandy told him over the weekend that he would be stepping down. Price credited Sandy for his long service to the district and said he will especially miss the perspective that he brought to the board.

"Having a board member who has a lot of historical perspective was very valuable to me. That can't be replaced. I viewed him as a wise, seasoned board member and

I highly valued that," Price said.

Fellow Director Roxanne Lindsay echoed Price's comments.

"He has been very valuable to the board during his time. His experience as Danville Police Chief was tremendous for us on the fire board," she stated.

The board now will begin the process of seeking an applicant to fill the vacant position. Price said details on the application process will be available on the district's Web site at www.firedepartment.org/board. ■

DIABLO VIEWS



By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Right now I'm a latte

You are what you eat. I don't know who said this but it sure takes the fun out of eating junk food — which is good. I'd rather think of myself as a peach than a marshmallow.

Among my recent e-mails at work was a news flash: "End of summer can begin healthy habits." That took me by surprise because I always take stock of my eating habits at the end of winter when I know I will soon have to leave the house in short sleeves and skirts. Something about those nice bulky sweaters, long pants and boots signifies an opportunity to become calorie-permissive.

The press release reasoned that with fall and back-to-school bells comes a new sense of adventure, which can lead to a healthier lifestyle. That's a nice positive approach. Because one could just as easily say: "You're about to be so busy that you'll be grabbing food whenever and wherever you can."

This upbeat message was sent by Take Off Pounds Sensibly, more commonly called TOPS, and I take my hat off to any ideas to help us eat better and get into shape, especially sensibly. I always remind myself that I have only one body that I'll stay in for my whole life so I'd better take care of it. It's not just about looks but about general well-being and staying healthy. What I eat affects the way I feel, my energy level and my frame of mind. As does exercise.

TOPS was making the point that at this time of year you can no longer avoid outdoor walks or

exercise by complaining about the heat. The press release quoted Amy Goldwater, a former body-building champion who is the physical fitness expert for TOPS, who noted that the group has long promoted walking as a way to get in shape. She said walking three times per week is a good goal for beginners and should eventually lead up to 30 minutes per day.

I've found that the most important thing about exercise is to make it convenient, which is a good case for walking in your own neighborhood. Starting right at your door eliminates travel time to a gym or other exercise venue, which can easily take 30 minutes in itself. With walking there is always the boredom factor, which is why walking groups are so popular. When I had a dog, I was walking a few times a week; I bought a cheap headset radio to keep me entertained. The radio never did work that well so when the dog died, I stopped my neighborhood walks.

Now my regimen is yoga, deep water aerobics and tennis. Danville Yoga Center is right behind the building where the Danville Weekly office is located so that is convenient. Time flies during yoga as we flow from one posture into another with the teacher giving us tips on breathing, body alignment to enhance the flow of energy, and healthy living in general. As we were sitting in a posture this week inhaling deeply and exhaling deeply she pointed out how the breath was traveling to every muscle and tissue and said some wonderful words: "Breathing becomes the dance of life." Is it any wonder that I embrace yoga?

Water aerobics is at the aquat-

ics center in Pleasanton near our production office. The negatives are coping with temperatures that are less than perfect — both in the water and outside. The positives are that I am covered in water up to my neck and the camaraderie is great, as is the music.

But back to the saying, "You are what you eat." The phrase can be traced to 1826 when a Frenchman named Anthelme Brillat-Savarin wrote, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." Actually he wrote, "Dis-moi ce que tu manger, je te dirai ce que tu es."

Almost 40 years later, in "Concerning Spiritualism and Materialism," Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach wrote something in German that translates as "Man is what he eats."

Both of these gentlemen were apparently trying to convey that the food one eats has a bearing on one's state of mind and health. In the 1920s and '30s, nutritionist Victor Lindlahr was a strong believer in the idea that food controls health and he developed something called the Catabolic Diet, which gained some followers. The earliest known printed example of the phrase was in a 1923 edition of the Bridgeport Telegraph, for United Meet (sic) Markets: "Ninety per cent of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat."

I don't know about catching diseases by eating cheap food. Fresh fruits and vegetables are less expensive than fast food. But I do know I'd rather be a strawberry than a french fry. Bon appétit.

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

Schools prep for possible return of H1N1

District says no large-scale closures, but greater vigilance expected

By GEOFF GILLETTE

During the initial appearance of the H1N1 "Swine Flu" virus earlier this year, officials with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District were quick to respond to any potential cases of the virus. In some cases, schools were shut down and sterilized by custodial staff. In other cases, students were simply asked to remain home until it was felt they were no longer contagious.

As the district prepares for the return of students to the classrooms, personnel are also preparing for a potential return of the virus.

"We're not going to be going through and sterilizing every school," said SRVUSD spokesman Terry Koehne. "What we'll continue to do is stay on top of and be out in front of, any new federal, state or county guidelines."

Since the cases of H1N1 have trailed off, health officials have expressed concerns that the virus

could return in greater strength in the winter months. On Tuesday, officials with the National Centers for Disease Control stated that as many as 60 million-120 million Americans could contract the virus this fall and winter.

Worst case scenarios from the CDC state that as many as 90,000 of the cases could be fatal.

New guidelines have come out for how the virus should be handled and what schools should do as they move into the months most commonly associated with the flu.

"It's a part of the federal guidelines that we'll be recommending to our schools. The basic things like hand hygiene, cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze," Koehne said. "As far as cleaning schools, we'll keep doing what we've always done and keep using what we've always used."

If students or teachers are suspected of having swine flu, the guidelines say they should be sepa-

rated from the general population of the school, and if it does turn out to be H1N1, they should go home.

"We always tell parents that if your child is sick to keep them at home," Koehne explained. "We'll continue to hammer that message that if your child has flu-like symptoms, keep them home for at least 24 hours after the symptoms go away."

While they do not plan on immediate school closures if a student or faculty member comes down with swine flu, the district will be giving schools the possibility of selective dismissal.

"You'd use your own discretion about closing a school, but it would have to be a very serious situation," Koehne stated. "We took our lead from the Contra Costa Health Department in closing the school. I think they've sort of come full circle when it comes to things like that. They're no longer recommending that you close the school." ■



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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Slight class size increase is a good idea

The School District trustees recently gave district staff the OK to increase the maximum number of students in grades K-3 and in ninth-grade classes from 20 to 22. This was a necessary step, both to save money and to avoid diverting students to other schools.

Some parents and teachers may decry this increase as a slippery slope that will eventually lead to much larger classroom sizes. Perhaps future budgeting may necessitate larger class sizes but this slight increase is not leading anywhere; it is dealing with the current financial and practical situation. Twenty was an arbitrary number and, while it worked well, under the current financial crunch it makes sense to allow one or two more students into each classroom.

Just as important is the fact that allowing these extra students into the lower grades may save families the extreme inconvenience of having their children diverted to other schools. When classrooms are mandated to no longer accept new students after they have reached 20, children are diverted to whatever school in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has openings. This may not be the next closest school but can be one on the other side of the district.

Assistant Superintendent Christine Williams reported that maintaining the 20:1 ratio at this time would mean diverting more than 300 students to other schools. She even cited a family with four children faced with the possibility of attending four different schools. If this move helps families stay together, it is worth it: As financial times become harder, it is important to keep up school spirit and the feeling of community that result in happy, secure students, parent volunteers and monetary contributions.

This decision by the trustees does not mean that each classroom will immediately see an increase in students. Williams estimated that 57 percent would remain at 20 students or fewer. Superintendent Steve Enoch said that the move saves the district approximately \$700,000 and prevents the layoffs of 10-12 teachers, which are also important facts to take into consideration.

Best of luck to Mike Shimansky

Our heartfelt wishes for recovery go out to Danville Councilman Mike Shimansky, who is battling bacterial meningitis in a hospital in San Diego, where he was visiting family when he became ill Aug. 17. The community has been grieved to hear of his fight against this insidious disease and the toll it has taken on him.

Shimansky has been active in many ways, from establishing the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park, to helping the American Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and fighting fires in San Diego County, as well as taking on the role of Santa Claus at the Danville Community Band holiday concert and at the town's Elf Workshops. All of this community involvement is in addition to serving as a Town Council member for 20 years. When he was last mayor, he established the monthly Mayor's Coffees on each first Friday morning that subsequent mayors have continued.

We are all pulling for Shimansky as he continues his struggle to overcome this illness and begins to recuperate. We look forward to his return to Danville and his continuing involvement in the community.

LETTERS

Medicare is government health care

Dear Editor:

We've been sitting through the rabid distortions and outright lies about what's being proposed to fix our health care system. But what's most infuriating is that the majority of opponents who snarl about "socialized medicine" and "government control of health care" are obviously senior citizens (as am I) who enjoy good Medicare and prescription drug coverage funded by American taxpayers. If they truly believe that our government should not be involved in health care they should turn in their Medicare and Part D cards and try to buy coverage on the open market. (They would fail, of course, because no private insurer would accept them.)

America can't continue with our present fractured health insurance system which rewards insurers for avoiding risk, accepting only the most healthy. Federal law must assure health coverage to all Americans, and require private insurers to accept everyone who applies without discriminatory rates for pre-existing medical conditions. That's what federal health reform proposes. I really appreciate the efforts of our congressman, Jerry McNerney, who has stood up for these reforms notwithstanding the distortions and lies.

Brent Barnhart
Danville

Be concerned about leaving debt for children

Dear Editor:

Paula Boyd ended her Aug. 21 Letter to the Editor about healthcare reform with a non-sequitur, "Jerry McNerney is, once again, proving to care for our kids." I'm not sure how McNerney is caring for our kids, as he's one of the Democrats who voted in favor of President Obama's "stimulus" bill. Just today we were told that the Obama administration's 10-year budget deficit projection is being raised by \$2 trillion, from roughly \$7 trillion to approximately \$9 trillion.

If Boyd recalls, at the time that we were being told Obama's economic agenda had to be rushed through Congress, the Democrats, including McNerney, insisted that the third party estimates of a \$9 trillion deficit were wrong and opposition to the bill was nothing more than Republican fear mongering.

So now we have McNerney and the rest of his party once more telling us that we have to support legislation (that few Democrats have bothered to read) that will cost us many more billions (or even trillions) and we shouldn't question the Democrats' rosy predictions.

Sorry, Ms. Boyd, but if you care about the children, you should be most concerned about massive debt McNerney and his Democratic party are leaving for today's children to pay. She may also want to consider

the pattern the Democrats have of pushing through legislation that is half baked, trying to shut down any public debate. Note, please, McNerney resorted to a telephone town hall, rather than an in-person one, to avoid having to face his constituents.

Marc Greendorfer
Danville

It's time to debate, not scream insults

Dear Editor:

Fear is a powerful motivator. Until people stop fearing change, they will continue to fight against it. The moral issue is when those who know better, inspire fear in those who don't know the truth. To add insult to injury, those who know better are the Health Insurance Industry. The truth is: SEC filings show that between the year 2000 and the year 2007, profit of the country's 10 largest health insurance companies rose 428 percent. In 2000, they had \$2.4 billion in profit. By 2007, it was \$12.9 billion. At the same time, millions of Americans who got serious illnesses were dropped from those same Health Insurance companies and the number of Americans without health insurance grew by 19 percent.

The sad news is that we finally have an opportunity to publicly debate health care reform, and those efforts to have a dialogue are being drowned out by misinformed zealots who do not know the truth about the proposals being discussed. Instead of joining our elected officials in a reasoned discussion, they yell and scream insults. All they know is that they fear change, even if it means a more equitable and humane solution to health care for all Americans.

Diane Johnson
Danville

Let's reform current system

Dear Editor:

I left Canada as I was going in the medical field and came to the USA as it has the best medicine in the world. I have relatives and friends in Canada, who tell me the following:

1. You wait in line for care.
2. There is a lack of equipment. For example my niece has seizures and was given an EEG, which went out in the 1940s. She needed an MRI.
3. There is a lack of doctors, especially specialists. Many left for the U.S. Many Eastern cities have no doctors and residents come to the U.S. for care.
4. Preventative medicine is lacking.
5. The only ones that like National Health have never been seriously ill.

Let us reform our current system; for example: no phony malpractice suits, no Rx for illegal immigrants, costing us billions. These are just a couple of suggestions; there is plenty that can be done. Obama Health Care is a disaster and will kill both people and our economy.

Mrs. S.C. Thompson
Alamo

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Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN

Burglar bagged by sharp-eyed neighbor

An early morning burglary was stymied last week through the actions of a vigilant neighbor. Danville Police Department Lt. Mark Williams said a 21-year-old Danville man was arrested in connection with the Aug. 17 incident.

Williams said around 4:24 a.m. police were dispatched to the 2000 block of Oneida Circle on a report of suspicious circumstances. On arrival, the officer made contact with the caller, who said they had witnessed a male subject enter into a neighbor's open garage and take items from their auto.

As the witness was giving police a description of the burglar, the suspect walked out of a nearby house and out onto the driveway. The officer made contact with the individual, identified as Raymond Glynn, and after a brief discussion was able to ascertain that Glynn had in fact entered the neighbor's garage and taken items, Williams said.

Police reports state that items stolen included a cell phone, a bottle of vodka and a bottle of chardonnay. Most of the items were returned intact.

Glynn was arrested and transported to the Martinez Detention Center where he was charged with residential burglary and probation violation.

Williams said the incident highlighted the need for residents to make sure their homes are secure and to close their garage doors at night. In addition, he recommended that residents remove any valuables from their cars when they park.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, Aug. 16

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Franciscan Dr. at 12:03 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:25 a.m.
- Battery on Woodbine Lane at 8:50 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 17

- Suspicious circumstance, arrest, on Oneida Circle at 5:04 a.m.
- Vandalism on St. Norbert Dr. at 11:51 a.m.
- Grand theft on Glasgow Circle at 12:52 p.m.
- Vehicle accident, fire, on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 4:01 p.m.
- Animal cruelty on Camino Tassajara at 5:20 p.m.
- Hailed by citizen, arrest, on La Gonda Way and La Gonda Ct. at 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

- Stolen vehicle on Feliz Ct. at 9:26 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Crow Canyon Rd. and Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 5:08 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. at 7:54 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

- Vandalism on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:33 a.m.
- Vehicle accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 1 p.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI on Crow Canyon Rd. and St. George Rd. at 3:38 p.m.

- Vehicle accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and Linda Mesa Ave. at 6:39 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 20

- Vandalism on Presidio Ct. at 4:06 a.m.
- Vandalism on Narcissus Ct. at 7:08
- Vehicle accident, property damage, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:42 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 8:31 p.m.
- Vehicle accident, property damage, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and El Pintado Rd. at 8:57 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Podva Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:11 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 21

- Missing adult on Spring Lane at 4:39 a.m.
- Reckless driving on Hartz Ave. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:14 p.m.
- Harassment disturbance on Cameo Dr. at 4:59 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Tuscany Way at 10:05 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 22

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Brookside Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:24 a.m.
- Petty theft, arrest, on Fostoria Way, at 12:04 p.m.
- Threat disturbance on Holbrook Dr. at 6:36 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro and El Pintado at 10:24 p.m.

OBITUARIES

David Allan Dellamar

Alamo resident David Allan Dellamar died Aug. 11 at the age of 50.

He was born Dec. 3, 1958, to Margaret and Alfred Dellamar. He grew up in Lafayette and attended Happy Valley Elementary, St. Perpetua's Catholic School, Stanley Intermediate and Acalanes High School. He was the owner and president of Delmar Electric Company Inc., based in the East Bay. His father started the business in Berkeley in 1950, and it meant a lot to him to continue to work with his father. Above all, he was a devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin and dear friend to many. He enjoyed the outdoors, cars, golf, water skiing, snow skiing, dirt bikes, street bikes, his Harley, boating, and most recently surfing. He is survived by his wife Michelle; son Lucas Dellamar; daughter Jaymi Dellamar; stepdaughter Marisa Wilson; father Alfred Dellamar; brother Steve Dellamar; and sisters Marilyn Dellamar, Joni Bushnell, Judee Sorenson and Janet Dellamar.

A Celebration of his Life will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Diablo Country Club. Donations can be made to the California State Parks Foundation to the David Allan Dellamar Memorial Fund, 50 Francisco St., Suite 110, San Francisco 94133.



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The Prince Charles Caledonian Club Pipe Band, with Danville resident Nick Theriault in the front row, third from the right, performs at Dunsmuir House in Oakland at its Scottish Games in July.

When the pipers p

Danville bagpipers to take part at the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering,



Bagpiper Nick Theriault, 15, meets hometown hero Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger; Nick played solo at the celebration in January to welcome Sully back to Danville.



The Prince Charles Pipe Band practices at the end of the cul de sac where Nick's family lives, preparing for the competition with the Queen Mary Games in Long Beach.



PHOTOS COURTESY THERIAULT FAMILY

Play

g & Games



competition season that begins in Febru-

By SUSAN ASTBURY

Think you'd like to play the bagpipes? It's not an easy task. Just ask two Danville residents who will be donning their kilts and hoisting their bagpipes for the Scottish Gathering and Games on Labor Day weekend in Pleasanton.

Nick Theriault, 15, a Danville resident, will compete as a member of the Caledonian Club Prince Charles Band. He started playing the bagpipes four years ago when he was in the sixth grade, although he was inspired to play when he was only 3.

"I heard a piper play at a wedding and was smitten ever since. I just always wanted to play," he remembered.

But Nick's family didn't know where to find a piping instructor so he learned to play other instruments.

"I started out with the guitar, which I played for six years. Then I learned the saxophone, the piano and the drums," he said.

Finally someone suggested that Foothill High School in Pleasanton might have a pipe band so his mother, Nancy Theriault, called.

"They didn't but they put me in contact with someone who was a piper and we got started," recalled Nancy. "Then, Nick moved to the Prince Charles Pipe Band and got great instruction."

"The thing that is difficult about playing bagpipes is the speed that they have to play," she noted. "Their fingers are moving at a rapid pace. Also, they don't just learn to play notes themselves. They learn to play movements so they are learning to play groups of notes together so they play evenly and you can hear every tiny quick grace note."

"Nick does solo competitions and band competitions," she added. "You don't go by age. You go by how good you are so you can compete against adults."

Nick explained that there are different levels of playing the bagpipes: Chanter, Grade 5, Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2, Grade 1 and then professional levels.

He plays bagpipe solos at weddings, memorials and parades, including each year at the Sept. 11 commemoration at Oak Hill Park in Danville as well as the Memorial Day Ceremony.

"I worked really hard to learn to play the pipes and now I've reached a stage that I can get it to sound like I want it to," said Nick. "It gives me great pleasure to share that with people. I'm a very patriotic person and I'm very honored to be able to help out the community."

He performed as a soloist for the Hero's Welcome Home celebration in Danville for Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger in January and said it was an amazing experience. He tuned up in the library where the notes echoed off the wood for an enriching sound that was one of the highlights of his career. Then he was instructed to march to the stage and told to keep playing until Sullenberger and his wife arrived. He finished one tune — and then another — and, finally, the doors opened and the guests of honor made their appearance.

Nick attends Venture School in San Ramon because he travels to competitions throughout the year. "The competition season starts in February at the Queen Mary Games in Long Beach, actually on the ship," said Nancy. "Pleasanton is usually considered the closing of the season."

What do Nick's teenage friends think about his bagpipe playing? "When I tell them I play the bagpipes, they weird out but they learn to accept it," he said with a laugh. He also takes classes at Monte Vista High School where he is a member of the marching band and plays the alto saxophone.

Meanwhile, he is the pipe major of the Grade 3 of the Caledonian Club Prince Charles Band.

"A pipe major's role is to control the band," explained Nancy. "He chooses the tunes the band will play and teaches them to the other pipers. The pipe major leads the band practices and makes corrections as necessary. He works with the drum corps and the drum sergeant. The pipe major leads the band in competition by calling off the tunes, leading the marching."

"When Nick takes the Prince Charles Band out (at the Scottish Games), his players are all in their teens and all their competitors will be adults," she said. "Nick does solo competitions and band competi-



SUSAN ASTBURY

Billy Anderson, 21, is the Club Piper for the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, and plays solo at all its ceremonies and events. He has been playing the bagpipes at the local Scottish Games since he was 9 years old.

Be Scottish for a day

What: 144th annual Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

Where: Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton

When: Gates open at 8 a.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 5-6

Special attractions: Pipes & Drums 1st Battalion Scots Guards from London; 35th U.S. Invitational Heavy Events and world Celtic Hammer Championships; dancing and Celtic music; living history

Tickets: Adults: one-day, \$12; two-days, \$20; ages 8-16, \$8; under 8, 65 and over, \$8

tions. You don't go by age. You go by how good you are so you can compete against adults."

"The nice thing about piping is that it's something that people do for their entire lives," she added. "People do it forever. You'd be surprised. Nick has friends in their 80s who are still playing pipes."

The Great Highland Bagpipe is comprised of an air bag, into which there are five pipes, a bass drone, two tenor drones, the mouth piece and the chanter on which the tune is played. The chanter is a short pipe with eight holes, and the player can only produce nine notes.

"I heard that there were only nine notes to play," explained Nick, "so I thought it wasn't a big deal. First you start out playing a chanter, kind of like a recorder made out of wood and a reed. Once you get good enough, you can buy your own set of pipes. There are four different reeds in the pipes, three for the drums that are sticking up and one for the melody."

A bagpipe is an investment as they range in price from \$800-\$10,000. They can be purchased on the Internet as well as from the House of Bagpipes in San Francisco. Manufacturers warn that it takes six to seven years of intensive practice to become a good piper.

This year, Nick was the recipient of the San Ramon Valley Business Roundtable Student Recognition Project Award for Music, a collaboration between the school district and business groups

to recognize students with special talents. He was also presented with a music composition award for a tune that he wrote while in Canada studying with the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. He explained that a piece of pipe music is always a "tune," never a "song."

The traditional bagpiper's uniform consists of a hat called a glengarry, a uniform shirt and tie, a sporran, which is similar to a purse, the kilt in a tartan pattern that can represent their family or band, hose or socks that go up to the knees, flashes that hang down from the socks, and ghillie brogues that are winged tipped shoes.

Bagpipes are believed to date back to 4000 B.C. They were a favorite of Roman Emperor Nero whose likeness playing the pipes has been discovered on ancient coins. They also were played in Egypt and Greece. It's believed that the bagpipes came to Scotland around the 1300s and settled in the Highlands.

Billy Anderson, 21, another piper from Danville, is also looking forward to the Scottish Games. His background is Scottish and he decided when he was 7 that he wanted to play the bagpipes. He has been playing in the Scottish Games since he was 9.

"I've always liked the bagpipes," said Anderson, who works as facilities coordinator for San Ramon.

His parents, members of Clan Anderson, have been involved with the Scottish Games as well as other Scottish organizations in Northern California. Attending the Scottish Games piqued his interest in the instrument.

Anderson learned to play from Lisa McAdams, a world-champion snare drummer who lives in Alameda. "Learning to play the bagpipes was really a matter of sticking to it," said Anderson. "My attention span as an 8-year-old just wasn't there but my parents encouraged me to practice."

"One of the most difficult things about learning to play the bagpipes is that you have to memorize all the tunes for competition," noted Anderson. "Playing a bagpipe is just getting in and practicing."

For the past three years, he has been Club Piper for the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, which presents the Scottish Games.

"I'm the soloist who plays at all the ceremonies for the club at all their events. Not many people have been selected to do this," Anderson said.

One of his favorite performances was at the closing of the De Young Museum in San Francisco prior to its renovation.

In his spare time, Anderson runs the Alameda County Sheriff's Band where he is the pipe major. The 13-member band practices at the Sheriff's Department in Dublin.

"I do basically everything from music instruction and purchasing to music selection." He also plays the bagpipes with a band in Claremont, where he travels once a month to play.

When asked the age-old question about what he wears under his kilt, Anderson replied that he wears basketball shorts. "That way, I can drive to the Games in Pleasanton, put on my kilt and I'm ready to go."

There seems to be a resurgence of interest in bagpipe playing. There's even a major in the bagpipe at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

"You probably want to make sure that you have the drive for playing the bagpipes," said Nick. "If you actually really want to play then you try to find an instructor and practice, practice, practice."

"My advice is to listen to your instructor," said Anderson. "They have been there and know everything that you are going through."

One of the things that Anderson likes most about playing the bagpipes is being engulfed in the Scottish heritage and being around the people you love. While both Danville families are of Scottish descent, Billy and Nick are the only members of their families who are pipers.

This will be Nick's fourth year playing in the Scottish Games. The final attraction is the grandstand show when all the pipers and drummers from the two days of competition march onto the field, group by group, for the breathtaking closing ceremonies, including a mass rendition of "Amazing Grace."

"The most rewarding thing about playing," said Anderson, "is making people feel good about themselves and passing on the Scottish heritage to other people." ■

Auditions

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR IMPROV

TROUPE San Ramon Improv U will be holding open auditions for its resident troupe. Auditions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Must be at least 21 and have at least one year of experience and/or training. For details and application, see www.SanRamonImprovU.com

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR 2009-2010 SEASON

The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, to folk to jazz. Auditions for the 2009-2010 concert season will be on Monday, September 14 and 21, by appointment, at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. Call 462-4205.

Camps

SRVHS DANCE CAMP This dance camp is for elementary and middle school dancers, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19. Cost to raise money to send dance team to the Orange Bowl is \$60 per dancer; includes three classes, a

T-shirt, snacks and a performance at the end of the day in the theater. E-mail cmacphail@srvhs.org.

Clubs

ALAMO WOMEN'S CLUB SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Guest speaker will be Lorrie Sullenberger. Lorrie believes "Fit is Fab" and is on ABC's "View From the Bay." She is also on the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. \$20 with lunch. E-mail normascruggs@yahoo.com.

Concerts

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT TODOS SANTOS PLAZA IN CONCORD

Pack up the family and head to Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord for another "Target Pops On The Plaza" magical music tour with Maestro Barry Jekowsky and the award-winning California Symphony. This fun-filled free annual event, which last year drew more than 4,000 people, will be start at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. Call (503) 622-0232.

Events

144TH SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GATHERING AND GAMES

First Battalion Scots Guards, fresh from

duty at Buckingham Palace, will join forces with the U.S. Marine Band during the closing ceremonies both days to present a staggering musical interlude. New this year, the Celtic Rock group 1916 will be performing, along with Tempset, Wicked Tinkers and Molly's Revenge. More than 25 pipe bands from the U.S. and Canada will be competing. The games will be held Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 5-6, at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. For ticket prices and information, visit www.caledonian.org.

18TH ANNUAL RUBBER DUCKY DERBY

Adopt a ducky and cheer it every waddle of the way watching the waves at Waterworld. This event will take place, Sunday, Aug. 30 at Waterworld, 1950 Waterworld Pkwy., Concord, to benefit Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

AN ADOPTION FAIRE! SPONSORED BY TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Join us from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30 for an adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Free with adoption: for dogs: three private training classes with a professional trainer, bed, collar, leash and a bag of Science Diet dog food. For cats: blanket & toys. Visit www.tvr.org for more information.

CONTA COSTA GREEK FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Come be greek for a day. Taste wines from the Islands

of Greece. Live music Performed by Mediterranean Soul. Greek dancing, Greek pastries and Greek food. From 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 13 at St. Demetrios Church, 1955 Kriker Pass Rd., Concord. Admission is \$5. Call 676-6967.

CONTRA COSTA MASTER GARDENER GARDEN WALK

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, six fabulous home gardens in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Martinez will showcase a variety of ideas including reducing lawn, bio-intensive gardening, bees, composting, and more. Master Gardners at each garden to answer questions. Cost is \$15. For more information call 945-7738.

DANVILLE D'ELEGANCE

Town of Danville will host Danville d'Elegance from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27, in downtown Danville. For information, call 314-3400.

DIABLO VALLEY QUILTERS 2009 SHOW

Diablo Valley Quilters Guild presents its 2009 Quilt Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 26-27 at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan, Danville. Enjoy over 250 quilts on display, vendors, demonstrations, door prizes and featured artist Sandy Klop; \$8 admission covers both days. Call 820-1588.

EUGENE O'NEILL FESTIVAL

Immerse yourself in an American literary legend at Danville's Eugene O'Neill

Festival, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-27, at various locations. The celebration will include live theater performances, seminars, exhibits, tours and more. To learn more, visit www.eugeneoneill.org or call 820-1818.

FALL USED BOOK SALE, FRIENDS OF THE DUBLIN LIBRARY

Friends of the Dublin Library invite you to shop for bargain books and audio-visual materials at the semi-annual used book sale. Sale begins with members-only night, Friday, Sept. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. The sale is open to all, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12; 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 13; and noon to 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 14 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Most books cost \$1. Call 828-1315.

HATS OFF AMERICA'S 17TH 10K/5K

Join Sparky George, the Bear Flag Runner and a Vietnam-era Marine, at the 17th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10k Run/5k Run or Walk starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Entry fee is \$35 per person. No entry fee for volunteers. Call 855-1950.

HEARTLAND ANTIQUE AND ART FAIRE

Enjoy antiques and art at this fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday, Sept. 7, in the Railroad Center in Danville. Live music, entertainment, and fun for the kids. There will also be an antique appraisal clinic at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. To learn more, contact Marcia Harmon from Cottage Jewel at 837-2664 or visit www.discover-danvilleca.com.

JOYCE GOLDSTEIN PRESENTS 'TAPAS'

Joyce Goldstein will be discussing and signing her new book, "Tapas," at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28 at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$25, serving a dinner of tapas (and maybe paella) by reservation only. Make reservations today by calling 837-7337.

LINCOLN AT 200

Danville Library and Museum of the San Ramon Valley present "Lincoln at 200 - In Fact Rather than Fiction" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Danville Community Center, Valley Oak Room, 420 Front St. Call 314-3400 or 837-3750.

SAN RAMON CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

This golf opportunity includes golf, cart, lunch, beverages on the course, networking, special golfers gift, prizes and more from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 31, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$720 for a foursome. Call 242-0600.

SAN RAMON ECO-FESTIVAL

The first San Ramon Eco-Festival is a free two-day event aiming to provide good green fun for everyone and will be held from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29 and from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30, at San Ramon City Center, 6200 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Visit www.eco-festivals.org.

TINSEL AND TREASURES ART SHOW

Second annual Tinsel and Treasures Art Show and Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at Alamo

The Tri-Valley's Premium Family Entertainment!



SCOTTISH HIGHLAND

Gathering & Games

Direct from Buckingham Palace....

The Pipes & Drums - 1st Battalion SCOTS GUARDS



It's the BIG ONE!

www.caledonian.org

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco Presents....

144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

September 5 & 6, 2009
Alameda County Fairgrounds
PLEASANTON

30 Pipe Bands from the U.S. and Canada

U.S. Marine Band

35th U.S. Invitational Heavy Events and World Celtic Hammer Championships

Western U.S. Highland Dancing Champ.

Six stages of Traditional and Celtic Rock Entertainment

Living History Re-enactments • Country Dancing, Fiddling & Harping

Birds of Prey • Sheep Dog Trials • Five-A-Side Soccer, Rugby & Shinty

British & American Food & Drink • Nearly 100 Vendors • Children's Glen • Nearly 100 Clan Tents • Whisky Tasting Seminars

Daily Closing Grandstand Show featuring the Scots Guards, U.S. Marines, 30 Pipe Bands plus much more!!!

ADMISSION... Adult 1-Day \$17.00 • 2-Day \$25.00 • 1-Day Senior, Youth & Handicapped \$10 • Children under 8, Military with Active Duty ID FREE • Grandstand seating extra - standing FREE



Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Fifteen artisans will offer original, handmade vintage whimsies, Halloween and Christmas folk art, paper mache figurines, mixed media, paper arts and more. Admission is free. Call 451-7805.

Exhibits

THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY PRESENTS QUILTS! TRADITION WITH A TWIST This exhibit, presented in collaboration with the Quilter's Inn, includes masterful works of art created by local quilters. Although there are traditional quilts on display, many use new creative techniques with artistic flare and diversity. Volunteers from the Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild will be on hand to demonstrate a variety of skills on Saturdays, Aug. 15, Sept. 5 and Sept. 19. This exhibit runs through Sept. 27 at The Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

Fundraisers

ALAMO WOMEN'S CLUB — PANCAKE BREAKFAST Gourmet Pancake Breakfast will benefit the Julie Hawkins Medical fund. Julie recently had a liver transplant and is recovering nicely. Her family has incurred staggering medical bills. From 8 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Sept. 20 at 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

CHARITY EVENT FOR GOLF FANS Make a contribution and enjoy a fun day at a private party at a Blackhawk home on the ninth hole of the Lakes Course during the LPGA on Saturday, Sept. 26, or Sunday, Sept. 27. Send a check for \$75 to attend Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; or \$50 for Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Make checks out to the charity of your choice: Blackhawk Women's Charity Scholarship Fund, Wheelchair Foundation, Benicia Rotary, Benicia Chamber of Commerce or San Ramon Valley VFW Post 75 and mail to Steve, Julie and Marisa Moore, 571 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville 94506.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Join us for a relaxing day of golf and great food. Golf Package includes lunch, 18 holes of golf at the San Ramon Golf Club, golf cart, prizes, awards, wine tasting and BBQ Dinner. Not a golfer? Join us for the dinner auction. Proceeds benefit the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area. From 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Firecrest Lane, San Ramon. Golf Package: \$140 per person. Dinner Auction: \$40 per person. Call 263-1776.

MARTELL COGNAC AND WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION JOIN FOR COMMON CAUSE Martell Cognac and the Wheelchair Foundation are joining forces from 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville for a fundraising event, "Martell for Mobility." The evening will feature no host cocktails, Asian hors d'oeuvres, California cuisines, fashion show and a tour of the prestigious Auto Galleries. The highlight of the evening will be a live auction of the very special numbered L'Or de Jean Martell Cognac. The goal is to

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Diablo Theatre Company's 'Funny Girl': Chelsea Nenni plays the young Fanny Brice and Jessica Fisher portrays the grownup singer in the Diablo Theatre Company's production of "Funny Girl, Classics in Concert," at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 27-29; and at 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets cost from \$29-\$41; call 943-7469. For more information, visit www.dloc.org.

provide wheelchairs to the disabled people of vietnam. Individual tickets are \$150. Call 648-3824.

WELLNESS COMMUNITY GALA 'AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE' The Wellness Community provides support, education and hope for people with cancer, their caregivers, children and extended families. Evening includes cocktails and dinner. A silent and live auction will raise funds to support these ongoing programs. From 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at Diablo Country Club, One Clubhouse Rd., Diablo. Cost is \$250 per ticket. Call 933-0107.

Health

SEMINAR ON ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION AFTER PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT Many men experience erectile dysfunction(ED)following treatment for prostate cancer. Board certified urologist, Charles Wen, M.D., will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments for impotence and ED. He will answer questions on ED and prostate cancer. Partners and family members are welcome. From 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8 at South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. This seminar is free. Call (800)284-2878.

Holiday

JEWISH NEW YEAR Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Rosh Hashanah celebration, a kid-friendly non-religious program of readings and music for the Jewish new year. Bring canned or boxed food for the food bank and a lunch dish to share. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost is \$10 for non-members ages 13 and up. Call 485-1049 or visit tri-valleyculturaljews.org.

Kids and Teens

AUDITIONS FOR ALICE IN WONDERLAND Auditions for Disney's Alice in Wonderland, from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday, Aug. 31, at Danville's Town Meeting Hall, 233 Front St.,

Danville. We are looking for kids and teens 10 to 16 years old who can sing, speak clearly and loudly, act and dance a little. Shows will be Nov. 27 through Dec. 4. Rehearsals are 4-6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 837-8146.

DANVILLE KIDZ READERS' BOOK GROUP FOR KIDS IN GRADES 3-5 No homework, no writing, no kidding! Just for fun sharing ideas and thoughts about books. Books are chosen for content, excitement, adventure or mystery for exploring different genres in juvenile fiction. Starting at 4 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 28 and Dec. 2 at Mt. Diablo room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 24, call 837-4889.

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY Danville Library will host a children's program which will include Timothy James, a comedy magician, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

JEWISH CULTURE SCHOOL INTRODUCTORY MEETING Intro meeting for parents and activities for kids. Jewish Culture School meets two Sunday mornings a month in Pleasanton, focusing on history, music, literature, cooking and ethics rather than religion. Open to children ages 5-14. Intermarried and non-traditional families welcome. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 13 at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. This meeting is free. Call 485-1049.

KIDS CIRCLE AND TEEN TALK — WHEN MOM OR DAD HAS CANCER A program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they identify feelings and learn coping skills; a support group for teens and a group for parents. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This program is free. Call 933-0107.

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK Join the Y for Movie Night in the Park. From

7:30 to 10 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18 at Hap Magee Park, 1029 La Gonda Way, Danville. Information on the YMCA's Adventure Guides program will also be available, along with juice, snacks and popcorn. Call 831-1100, or rsvp at mdrymca.org.

PAWS TO READ LITERACY PROGRAM Paws to read returns this fall with an exciting opportunity for children to read to dogs to perfect reading skills or just for fun. Children must be in grades 1-5 for the 2009-10 school year. Program will take place at 4 or 4:35 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at Mount Diablo Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Registration begins Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the library or by calling 837-4889.

STORYTIME WITH THE FARMER Calling all little farmers! Fall is a great time to gather at Forest Home Farms to hear stories, sing songs, create a craft and enjoy some refreshments. We will also be visiting many of the animals at the farm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Only children need to register. From 10-11 a.m., Friday, Aug. 28 at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. \$5 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. Call 973-3284.

WEB WIZARD LIBRARY DATABASE WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5 Come to the Web Wizard Library Database Workshop to learn how to find information for school assignments using your own computer. You and your parents will learn what a database is, not the Internet, how to use it and how a database can help you with homework. From 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Mt. Diablo Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Registration is required and begins Monday, Aug. 24. Call 837-4889.

Literary Events

'TWO CITIES, ONE TALE' Residents of Danville and San Ramon are invited to participate in "Two Cities, One Tale" Joint CityRead by

reading "Assassination Vacation" by Sarah Vowell Aug. 31-Oct. 12. A free copy of the book is available at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. and the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. This program will conclude with a special presentation from Sarah Vowell at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, San Ramon. Call 837-4889.

On Stage

ALL SHOOK UP Center REPeritory Company presents All Shook Up, from Sept. 3 through Oct. 10 at Center REPeritory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Directed and Choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming and with Musical Direction by Dolores Duran-Cefalu, All Shook Up is the first production of Center REP's 43rd subscription season. Press night is Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 pm. Call (925)943-7469 or visit CenterREP.org.

ROLE PLAYERS PRESENTS 'SPEED-THE-PLOW' "Art Versus Money" is the question posed in this hard-hitting drama, which dissects the ruthless nature of Hollywood and the movie industry. Words are weapons and power the prize in Role Players 2009 Black Box production of plays produced in intimate settings with minimal staging. Begins at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, Saturday, Sept. 19, Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 25 at Diablo Actors Ensemble Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$12 at the door. Call 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Political Notes

BLACKHAWK REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S SUMMER SOCIAL From 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29 is Casino Royale, a purely social evening of fun and games, good food and good company Monte Carlo style, featuring catered dinner and games of chance. RSVP by Aug. 23. \$30 and a bottle of wine to share. Call 820-4329.

SEN. MIKE GRAVEL ON HOPE VS. THE GOVERNMENT AS USUAL Controversial peace advocate, Sen. Mike Gravel, shares his thoughts on "Hope vs. The Government as Usual" and the real opportunity for egalitarian change. Beyond protesting and letter writing, find out about real citizen empowerment, The National Initiative for Democracy. From 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 9 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Suggested donation of \$12 general, \$5 for students with current ID. Call 933-7850.

Seniors

SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS Nominate now for these awards, which are to recognize seniors who have provided extraordinary voluntary service within Contra Costa County in 2008. By spotlighting these seniors, Culture to Culture Foundation hopes to inspire others to share their time and talents. Everyone is invited to the award ceremony to be held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. All nominations should be e-mailed to seniorawards@sbcglobal.net. All entries must be received by Monday, Aug. 31.

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



DONNA CLANCY

Kevin Clancy, 21, says goodnight to his little friend, Ivan, (at right) and another child at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in Mexico last month. Ivan would not let Kevin go, so he promised he'd return at 6 a.m. to have a final breakfast before boarding the bus to the airport.

Father Frank's Kids

St. Isidore fiesta will benefit orphans in Latin America



Each year musicians and dancers from one of the recipient Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanages visit St. Isidore for a fiesta celebrating the culture, music and dance of their home country.

It's fiesta time! Young dancers and musicians from El Salvador are coming to town to perform ethnic dances to thank St. Isidore Parish for its support of their orphanage and others in Latin America. They are a few of Father Frank's Kids.

"The kids are amazing," said parishioner Donna Clancy of Danville, who just visited the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage in Cuernavaca, Mexico. "They're happy, they're loving. They just kind of grab you, physically and emotionally."

She traveled with her husband and five children in July to visit the orphanage for the second time. They stayed onsite in a dorm, with no hot water. "It's a big deal to accommodate us so we appreciate it," Clancy noted. "There were eight other kids from Danville, and we met up with about 40 people from Arizona."

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos is headquartered in Chicago with its West Coast office in Arizona, she explained. The organization has grown from an incident in 1954, when a young American priest in a Mexican village caught a little boy stealing money from the poor box. He would not press charges and instead asked for custody of the boy. The judge not only agreed but sent him eight more homeless boys the following week. By the end of the year, the priest was making a home for 32 youngsters, the roots of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos.

Forty years later, Father Frank Colacicco came to live at St. Isidore's after he retired and attended a conference of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos. He was hooked and devoted himself to developing support at the Danville parish for the orphanages.

St. Isidore's now sends an average of 16,000 pounds of goods to the orphanages each year, including bicycles, school supplies, food, clothing and sporting goods. And visitors bring more.

"Each person who comes is able to bring a 25-pound box of goods," said Clancy. "We had 53 boxes with us — we were quite a sight. We fly in to Mexico City and pile on school buses from the school. You're in the middle of nowhere. It's a very small town."

This orphanage, which houses 600 children, was a 200-year-old sugar plantation, she said, with 200 acres. It now has a huge greenhouse, chickens, pigs and a tilapia farm, tended to by the orphans and some paid agricultural workers. The site includes an elementary school, dorms, a chapel, dental facilities and an infirmary with a fulltime staff.

"It's a beautiful facility," Clancy said, "all brick and arches and bougainvillea." It is run by a priest, and the staff includes many who grew up at the orphanage. If they work for two years to help raise the little ones, their college expenses will be paid. There are also recent college graduates from countries around the world, who must commit for at least one year before being accepted as volunteers.

"Almost every person I met had extended their stay," said Clancy. "It was hard to leave after a week."

Some youths are taught vocational skills in fields such as auto shop, childcare and the hospitality industry. "They are breaking the cycle of poverty," Clancy said.

The Clancy family sponsors four children, and their stay was spent reconnecting with those they met last year. "For them to know that someone cares is awesome," she said.

"We take them to pizza, to a water park. We do a bunch of art projects together every day and just hang out with them," she explained. "All of our kids who come down do chores — wash dishes, make tortillas. They grow their own corn and make tortillas for every meal. We experience what they experience."

She said visitors are impressed by the happiness of the children, who have been orphaned or abandoned or taken away from abusive parents. Or sometimes a single parent simply cannot care for them.

"There is a simple joy," she said. "What they have is hundreds of brother and sisters. They are one big, happy family."

About 30 Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos graduates have settled in the Bay Area and help out with the fiesta, said Clancy. Her family and others in the parish will host visitors from El Salvador when they are here Oct. 1-6.

"It's a great mission for our church," she said. ■

Join the fiesta

What: Father Frank's Fiesta and Auction, with carnival, buffet dinner and more

Special: Ballet Folklórico performed by children from an orphanage in El Salvador

Benefits: Orphanages in Latin America run by Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos

When: Saturday, Oct. 3, after the 4 p.m. Mass

Where: St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda, Danville

Cost: \$40 per person; \$75 per couple; \$100 per family

Information: www.fatherfrankskids.org

PRESENTING THE PAST

By BEVERLY LANE



COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

In 1937, eucalyptus trees lined Tassajara Road on the way to the Wood ranch. Local ranchers liked the trees because they grew quickly and provided a wind break, firewood, shade and beauty.

Ah, the ubiquitous eucalyptus, Part 1

Ever notice the stands of old eucalyptus in the San Ramon Valley? These trees are not California natives but they can be seen everywhere in the Oakland-Berkeley hills, the Central Valley, our Valley and Southern California. And therein lies a tale.

Eucalyptus came to California with the Gold Rush. Australian miners sailed here on ships made of ancient blue gum eucalyptus and brought sacks of the seeds with them. As gold miners became farmers, they were happy to plant these seedlings since most of the desirable land was nearly treeless and the eucalyptus grew quickly. One early report stated a grower had 40-foot trees in just six years.

John S. Hittel in his "Resources in California" (1863) stated, "the valleys are mostly bare of trees." There were not enough oaks, willows or sycamores to meet the growing population's needs. The Oakland redwoods were felled as San Francisco was built, burned down, and built again until the original redwoods were depleted.

In his work "The Natural Wealth of California," published in 1868, author Titus Fey Cronise gives this picture of Stanislaus County: "With the exception of a few scattered oaks along the larger streams, and a sparse growth of the same trees interspersed with an inferior species of pine found on the eastern foothills, the county is destitute of timber." According to Robert Santos, these 19th century authors paint a clear picture of California's virtually treeless landscape.

Santos wrote: "The demand for trees quickened with settlement because wood was needed for fuel and construction. Settlers from the well-forested eastern United States disliked the monotonous treeless landscape of California and immediately began planting trees near their buildings for beauty, shade and firewood. The eucalyptus could meet these needs quicker than other trees, and because of this and its enormous size, it attracted attention."

There are about 600 kinds of Australian euca-

lyptus. Early enthusiasts touted their fast-growing qualities and uses for fire wood, windbreaks and construction. Other claims were made which turned out to be true only if certain types of eucalyptus and careful seasoning was employed. Southern Pacific and later Santa Fe Railroads tried to use the wood for railroad ties but discovered that it split and wouldn't hold a spike.

Ranchers found the trees did make good windbreaks and, while the wood was difficult to cut, it burned very well. The bark that shed from blue gum trees made excellent kindling as well. But those who hoped to make furniture or even fence posts were disappointed since it wouldn't take a plane easily and, as it dried, came apart.

R.O. Baldwin had brought Osage seeds from Ohio and planted them on his ranch to have some trees from home. He also planted eucalyptus trees for windbreaks. He and others planted locusts to frame the old highway. Old eucalyptus can still be seen around the headquarters of Baldwin's ranch near El Capitan. Drivers looking for the trees can see them next to San Ramon Valley Boulevard throughout the south part of the Valley.

Seedlings were sold in Bay Area nurseries beginning in the 1850s. In Oakland the Bellevue Nursery's 1871 catalogue advertised 34 species of eucalyptus for 25-30 cents each; blue gum seedlings sold for 10 cents. Gum Tree Nurseries in Hayward marketed 50,000 seedlings in 1873 and was one of the largest sellers.

Ranchers in Alamo, Danville and San Ramon probably purchased seedlings from these nurseries because their serious planting projects began in the late 19th century.

More next week on these local ranchers and their eucalyptus.

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: Bill O'Brien, "Ubiquitous Eucalyptus" (Bay Nature magazine, Sept.2005), Robert L. Santos, "The Eucalyptus of California"; museum archives



Qualifiers for the title of All American Cheerleader are (l-r) Felicia Manan, Maddy Bodiford, Jasmine Kriston, Maty Schultze.



DVHS 2009-2010 JV and varsity squads are (back, l-r) Ashley Carter, Kelci Lam, Felicia Manan, Alexa Morgan, Jasmine Kriston, Stephanie Gunn, Amanda Yu, Maddy Bodiford, Morgan Rom, Hannah Cullado, Nayoun Kim, Ally Ferber, (middle) Maty Schultze, Alexis Floyd, Mikala Jackson, Natasha Green, Kelly Sul- lenberger, Nikki Johnson, (front) Jennifer Castillo and Izzy Bareiss.

DVHS cheerleaders reach new heights

By RACHAEL BYRON

Dougherty Valley High School's cheer program has a new look to it. Both varsity and JV squads attended cheer camp at UC Davis last week and discovered some hidden talent.

On the second night of camp, seven DVHS cheerleaders tried out against their peers for the title of All American cheerleader. Of the seven who tried out, four cheerleaders qualified. Maddy Bodiford, Jasmine Kriston, Felicia Manan and Maty Schultze have the possibility to wing their way to London, England, in December in order to compete on the international level. The very same Felicia Manan also won the award of best jump at camp, over some 250 other high school cheerleaders.

JV and varsity squads alike showed up each morning ready to work hard, despite the 100-plus degree heat. Their efforts were rewarded each evening with a spirit stick. By the last day of camp, JV and varsity were anxious to receive their evaluations from the UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) staff. Collectively, the two squads walked away with five trophies to add to the DVHS trophy case. Among the trophies, JV was

awarded with second place in the JV cheer division and first place in the JV dance division.

With camp behind them, the DVHS cheerleaders now look forward to competing at the regional level with the hopes of qualifying for the annual national competition held in Anaheim every spring. They bring with them to practice each day the determination, dedication and enthusiasm required for such a lofty goal. Their new cheer coaches, Karie Manning and Rachael Byron, are thrilled with the progress both squads have made, and the obvious potential of the girls. They particularly appreciate the varsity squad's leadership as these girls spearhead Dougherty's new cheer program.

In order to establish a growing cheer program, the DVHS JV and varsity cheerleaders are excited to host a cheer clinic for local boys and girls ages 5 to 14 the week of Oct. 26-29, culminating with a performance at the varsity football game held at Dougherty on Friday, Oct. 30.

These DVHS cheerleaders are well on their way to helping Dougherty continue to establish its reputation for having a tradition of excellence. ■

EPICURE



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Super foods

- Acai berry
- Alliums (garlic, leeks, onions, etc.)
- Apples
- Apricots
- Avocado
- Barley
- Beans & lentils
- Berries
- Blueberries
- Broccoli, cabbage, bok choy
- Buckwheat, seed & grain
- Cinnamon
- Citrus
- Dark chocolate
- Eggs
- Figs
- Grapes
- Green grasses
- Herbs, e.g., basil, mint
- Honey
- Hot peppers
- Mushrooms
- Nuts & seeds; nut butters
- Oats
- Olives, olive oil
- Pomegranate
- Pumpkin
- Red wine
- Salmon
- Spinach
- Sprouts
- Sweet potatoes

Time for after-school snacks ... again!

Growing up in Miami, my after-school snacks were often something juicy plucked from a backyard tree — a mango, banana, guava or such. To get more formal, my mother — who was rarely there when I arrived home from school, usually working — gave me clear instructions about what was allowed before dinner and what I could safely make on my own.

My favorites were Saltine crackers with a piece of torn bologna on top, Ovaltine and milk in my favorite Howdy Doody glass or Kool-Aid popsicles made-ahead together. But that was long before nutritionists deemed most of these things as not very nutritious. Back then, they managed to provide that extra spurt of energy (read: sugar) to fuel riding my bike, jumping hopscotch or playing jacks.

My own children, raised as vegetarians, bemoaned many of the healthy (and not always flavorful)

snacks I made them. However, their favorite after-school snack was “Ants on a Log,” not just because it tasted so good but because they got to make it themselves. Even now, the snack is popular among children and grandchildren for those very reasons. And, by any measure, it is as nutritious as a snack can be.

It’s that time of year again — to fill your refrigerator with foods that will satisfy your kids’ needs for energy-boosters during that super-busy time between school and dinner while satisfying your desire for them to eat healthy.

This year, consider the list of “super foods” that pack a nutritional wallop and provide essential elements in healthy diets to create their after-school snacks. “Super foods” are nutritionally dense; that is, they contain more nutrients per calorie than other foods. Also, they have been proven to contain vitamins, minerals and other nutrients that prevent disease. For example, vitamin-C-filled fruits like oranges, avocado’s brain-building essential fatty acids, the anti-oxidants of blueberries, sour cream’s probiotic cultures, nuts and seeds for their “good” MUFAs (monoun-

Recipe

Ants on a Log (serves 1-2)

- 2 stalks celery, medium length
- 1 Tbsp peanut butter
- 2 Tbsp raisins, seedless

Wash celery, then fill the center of the celery sticks with peanut butter; place raisins over peanut butter. Note: Be sure children who eat this snack do not have allergic reactions to peanuts!

Easy Dip for Veggies (makes 1 cup)

- 1 cup whole milk ricotta cheese
- 1/3 cup plain nonfat yogurt
- 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Blend ricotta, yogurt and lemon juice in a food processor or blender until as smooth as possible; season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover and chill until ready to serve. Serve with raw vegetables, e.g., asparagus spears, carrot, cucumber and celery sticks, cherry tomatoes, etc.

See more recipes at www.DanvilleWeekly.com.

saturated fatty acids), etc. A diet incorporating a variety of “super foods” will help your children have more energy, maintain their weight, fight disease and live healthier.

Individual super foods have unique health benefits so read more about them if you want to target certain areas. However, they all have one thing in common: Every super food is going to be an unprocessed food. Go over a list of super foods (see list at

left) with your child to select his/her favorites. Then go find snack recipes using those nutritious foods, maybe some of which your children can make themselves. That’s what I call a Win-Win! Go, Snack Team!

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

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- Live music and DJ on Sept. 26
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See Details at www.WineforWheels.org/wfw/LPGAevent2009-new.htm

To advertise your restaurant, bar or club Call 837-8300

Sports



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Red Bull head butt

Nicholas McCambridge of the Mustang Red Bulls U10 Gold strikes the ball with his head during the Mustang Stampede Classic Boys 2009 held Aug. 21-24 for teams under-9 to under-17 at the Mustang Soccer Complex on Camino Tassajara in Danville. About 100 teams were accepted into the tournament.



Swim champs break records

The Crow Canyon Sea Lions 9/10 Girls Relay Team capped a memorable season by breaking records at the VSA League Swim Championships as well as the Contra Costa County Swim Championships held Aug. 15-16 in Lafayette. The girls, who had been setting records with both their medley and freestyle relays all year long, never lost a race and ended their season in grand fashion by blowing away the County records. In their medley relay they did a time of 2:07.25 beating the precious mark by more than 3.5 seconds; their freestyle relay posted a record time of 1:54.52, smashing a 10-year-old record by more than two seconds. The girls' dominating performance earned them the "Outstanding Girls Relay" award at the County Meet, as well as at the League Championships. Team members are (l-r) Alexa Fusari, Isabella Barattolo, Sarah Klass and Gianna Garcia.

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Attack succeeds

The Boys U12 Mustang Attack finished in second place in the highly competitive Woodland Sunshine Classic on Aug. 22-23. The Attack had a come-back win in game 2 against the home Woodland team that helped propel them into the Championship game. Coach Pat Lencioni repeated to the team that tough defense would be the key. Led by Jack Neves, Matt Lencioni, Michael Collari and Andrew Tsung, the D only gave up 1 goal in the first 3 games. Team members are (front row, l-r) Jason Schwartz, Ryan Dang, Jeffrey O'Neil, Andrew Tsung, Carter Hennigan, (back) Jack Neves, Blake Klein, Conner Lencioni, Matt Lencioni, Kevin Velo, Nick Aparicio, Michael Collari, Doug Partridge, Connor Lynn. Coaches are Tim Partridge, Rob Neves and Head Coach Pat Lencioni. Not pictured, Russ Lynn and Lars Enstrom. The Attack also won the Claire Ann O'Neil Mission Bell in San Rafael on Aug. 8-9.



Strong armed in Woodland

The Danville-based East Bay Colt .45s rode stout pitching to the USSSA Woodland Tournament Championship on July 18. The team gave up just six runs in the entire tournament to defeat teams from Sacramento, Stockton, Walnut Creek and Redding in 107-degree heat. Jason Gregory and Matt Fowler combined to take the final game, 4-2, while Mark Hirsch pitched a complete game 11-1 decision in the semifinals, and Blake Dicus combined with relievers Fowler and Gregory to win in the preliminary round. Hitting stars included Zack Argiros, Austin Lonestar, Sam Sarver, Brad Hanna and Tim Bhatt. The Colt .45s are managed by Jason Brosnan.



The Magic begins

The U12 Mustang Magic took second place in its first tournament of the season at the Central Valley Magic Cup III. They fought hard against teams from Alameda, Central Valley, Sierra and Milpitas. Team members are (back row, l-r) head coach Vanessa Hodge, Kayley Hannan, Sophia Freidler, Jenny Sharpe, Ali Panconi, Hannah Platter, Jessi Pryt, Aubrey Martinez, Coach Mike Panconi, (front) Emma Reynolds, Jenna Noonan, Maria Huether, Sydney Finkel, Sammy Levy, Kacie Miller, Sophia Casatico, Marissa Ugarte. Not pictured, Nia Lewis.



Silver Rangers prevail in Fremont

The Silver Mustang U13 Rangers rolled into Fremont on Aug. 8-9 to compete in the Mission Valley United Futbol Classic and left with the Championship Iron. The Ranger's deep bench allowed the players to maintain fresh legs throughout the tournament as they outscored their four opponents, 16 to 0. Team members are (back, l-r) Coach John Maddalon, Scott Whippem, Tanner Smith, Franco Felix, Jake Casey, Fernando Felix, Tyler Maddalon, Riley Struck, Josh Larsen, head coach Rob Hansen, (front) Joshua Hanna, Justin Brand, Alex Mulsow, Alexander Brown, Brandon Wise, Drew Kerr, John Hammill, RJ Motter. Not pictured, Eric Dobberpuhl.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Xtreme champions

The Mustang Xtreme went undefeated in winning the Championship Title at the Pacifica United Coast Cup in Pacifica this past weekend. During the championship game, Mustang Xtreme beat the Pacifica Pioneers, 2-1. Team members are (back row, l-r) Coach Pete McCabe, Micheala Paradiso, Rebecca Silverman, Makenna Smith, Melyssa Moore, Sara Walker, Samantha Wanket, Carina Pineda, Erin Nash, Coach Don Fornasier, (front) Ellie Hensley, Elise Ericson, Katie Patterson, Kaitlin Ross, Megan McCabe, Joelle Fornasier and Kathryn LaBarbera. Not pictured, Julia Espino. The Mustang Xtreme also was undefeated at the 33rd annual Shamrock Invitational Tournament in Dublin the previous weekend.



Eagles soar at tournaments

The U14 Mustang Eagles won the highly competitive Soccer by the Bay tournament on the Peninsula on Aug. 22-23, with 14 top teams competing in the bracket. The flying Eagles defense swooped down to stop the ball any time there was a threat and did not give up a single goal during their four games. The Eagles offense laid 7 eggs in the opposing nests over the weekend to secure the victories. Team members are (back row, l-r) Head Coach Greg Schwartz, Riah Kitchin, Kendal Andres, Coach Don Andres, Gabbi Klein, Kate Berry, Sarah Luther, Coach Kirt Mullnix, (front) Ali Bard, Olivia Schikora, Jenna Turley, Stephanie Aurelius, Katie Mullnix, Jessica Schwartz, Amber Ray, (lying down) Sarah Cosca, Ali Kitchin. Not pictured, Victoria Rosdahl, Coach Tom Bard. The team also finished second in their first tournament of the season at the annual 49er Gold Rush in Auburn on Aug. 7-8.

67% can now afford entry-level homes somewhere in California

High desert region is where homes are most affordable

By JEB BING

The percentage of households that could afford to buy an entry-level home in California stood at 67 percent in the second quarter of 2009, compared with 49 percent for the same period a year ago, according to a report released this week by the California Association of Realtors.

The minimum household income needed to purchase an entry-level home at \$224,180 in California in the second quarter of 2009 was \$39,930, based on an adjustable interest rate of 4.92 percent and assuming a 10 percent down payment. First-time buyers typically purchase a home equal to 85 percent of the prevailing median price. The monthly payment including taxes and insurance was \$1,330 for the second quarter of 2009.

At \$39,930, the minimum qualifying

income was 34 percent lower than a year earlier when households needed \$60,460 to qualify for a loan on an entry-level home. Recent decreases in home prices and mortgage rates have brought affordability into better alignment with income levels of the typical California households, where the median household income is \$61,030.

The First-time Buyer Housing Affordability Index declined 2 percentage points in the second quarter of this year compared with the first quarter of 2009, due to a 6.4 percent increase in the price of an entry-level home.

At 86 percent, the High Desert region was the most affordable area in the state. The San Luis Obispo County region was the least affordable in the state at 50 percent, followed by the Orange County region at 53 percent. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2009

Alamo

- 288 Castle Crest Road** Hurner Trust to H. Rassai for \$1,515,000
- 2829 Litina Court** T. & A. Elwell to M. & K. Sasso for \$675,000
- 1644 Ramona Way** Goldman Trust to F. & K. McIntyre for \$1,605,000
- 3123 Roundhill Road** W. & L. Sage to M. & A. Giesecke for \$1,575,000
- 361 Tracy Way** Villalon Trust to G. Noori for \$950,000
- 1597 Via Romero** T. & B. Budach to E. Lin for \$1,088,000
- 70 Zand Lane** J. Cho to L. & S. Regular for \$1,018,000

Danville

- 120 Birchbark Place** Noe Trust to B. & J. Dastmalchi for \$930,000
- 1615 Brush Creek Place** Greenpoint Mortgage to S. & J. Moylan for \$500,000
- 75 Haskins Ranch Circle** B. & S. Dailey to A. Zuazo for \$764,000
- 30 Laurel Court** P. Hejtmanek to P. Morris for \$640,000
- 729 Liquidamber Place** Mugge Trust to D. & C. Duckett for \$1,099,000
- 609 Martingale Court** Ponderosa Homes to A. & R. Bhatia for \$945,000
- 549 Mission Place** W. Piggott to S. & J. Pak for \$380,000
- 213 Monte Carlo Way** D. Alexander to C. MacK for \$740,000
- 206 Murcia Court** H. & G. Klein to K. & B. Kuehnle for \$1,120,000
- 744 Old Creek Road** Hinrichs Trust to D. & K. Ovadia for \$915,000
- 10 Rima Court** Monaco Trust to S. Wainner for \$1,185,000

- 1157 San Ramon Valley Boulevard** R. & M. Vinson to K. King for \$335,000
- 601 South Paradise Valley** Cerny Trust to J. Nguyen for \$535,000
- 18 Volterra Court** Schuman Trust to R. & Y. Jannesen for \$840,000
- 3887 Welshland Street** Shapell Industries to R. & D. Patterson for \$922,000
- 104 Wilshire Court** Briggs Trust to P. & C. Hall for \$875,000

Walnut Creek

- 5951 Autumnwood Drive #3C** Jones Trust to Durie Trust for \$360,000
- 141 El Dorado Road** J. Hale to J. & A. Doshi for \$799,000
- 1345 Juanita Drive** L. Wagner to T. Kepler for \$664,000
- 537 La Vista Road** Meditz Trust to S. & C. Grimshaw for \$662,500
- 1417 Marchbanks Drive #2** Wesenhagen Trust to R. Pierce-Jones for \$253,000
- 207 Normandy Lane** Lee Trust to R. Baxter for \$640,000
- 286 Normandy Lane** Martin Trust to E. & M. Khoury for \$700,000
- 1655 North California Boulevard #321 L.** Hinman to G. Favro for \$360,000
- 2590 Oak Road #248** Deutsche Bank to B. Altwarg for \$345,000
- 2608 Saklan Indian Drive #5** Heuer Trust to D. & J. Faszholz for \$299,000
- 1275 Sheppard Court** Rancho Sheppard Investments to J. Ng for \$795,000
- 733 Sutton Drive** M. & S. Morgan to P. Chi for \$790,000
- 4372 Terra Granada Drive #2B** F. Pitruzzello to Pyle Trust for \$375,000
- 143 Via Mantilla** Bode Trust to E. & S. Dale for \$705,000
- 1919 Ygnacio Valley Road #20** P. Ma to J. Julin for \$203,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Alamo

Total sales reported: 7
Lowest sale reported: \$675,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,605,000
Average sales reported: \$1,203,714

Danville

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$335,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,185,000
Average sales reported: \$795,312

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$203,000
Highest sale reported: \$799,000
Average sales reported: \$530,033

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

3 BEDROOMS

1527 Las Trampas Road \$1,129,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Empire Realty 858-9316

Livermore

5 BEDROOMS

1312 Carlton Place \$844,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS

2505 Arlotta Place \$1,429,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

902 Summit Creek Court \$1,495,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

3737 Nicole Avenue \$1,550,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 922-9822

64 Castlewood Drive \$2,195,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 847-8880

1112 Donahue Drive \$960,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 847-8880

5 BEDROOMS

6736 Riddell Street \$1,299,000
Sun 12:30-3:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

3267 Belvedere Court \$1,495,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416

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Danville El Pintado Loop



X5000
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Updated Home and guest house on 1.7 acre parcel. Horse Set Up, Work Shop, Pool and more \$1,499,000

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at 837-8300, ext. 130
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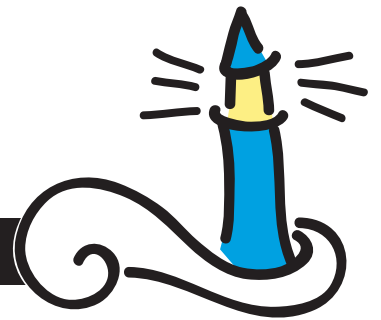


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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 1888 Camino Ramon, Aug 29, 29, 30, Sept 5 8a-3p
Moving sale: furniture, flat screen tvs, dressers, recliner, kg. beds, spreads, kg. sheets misc. items

Danville, 31 Salem Town Ct., Aug. 29, 9-2
Huge garage sale!!! Lots of clothing, furniture, and other household items for cheap prices.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antique Oak China Cabinet - \$550.
Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$195.00
Antique Victorian End Table - \$125.
Royal Doulton figurine - \$45

220 Computers/ Electronics

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TAKE US ALONG



Scandinavian adventure: Judy Smith of Danville vacations with her Weekly in August 2008 in Bergen, Norway, the first leg of her trip before boarding a ship in Copenhagen that cruised the Baltic with stops at each of the Scandinavian capitals.



Dawn reading: George and Lorraine Silva on the Dawn Princess in Haines, Alaska, with their hometown reading.

PET OF THE WEEK

Pretty Pamela

Meet Pamela, a 3-year-old spayed female long-hair Chihuahua mix with special needs. Pamela is friendly and, as you can see, adorable! Pamela has a general lack of coordination due to brain damage of unknown cause. Though she gets around well for the most part, Pamela sometimes stumbles and wobbles when she walks. But that doesn't stop this seven-pound bright-eyed girl. Pamela enjoys going for walks and gets along well with other dogs and cats if properly introduced. Pamela also has a grade two luxating patella in her left knee and a grade one luxating patella in her right knee. See www.vetinfo.com/dpatella.html for an explanation of this orthopedic condition. SPCA staff recommends Pamela for a dog-savvy household with adults or older children only. If your household can provide Pamela with the loving care she needs, contact the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunda. Call 479-9670 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.



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