

Danville Weekly

Congrats to grads: Caps will fly tonight as seniors say farewell **PAGE 15**

'New' Vets Hall plans: Architects ready to prepare cost estimate for remodel **PAGE 5**

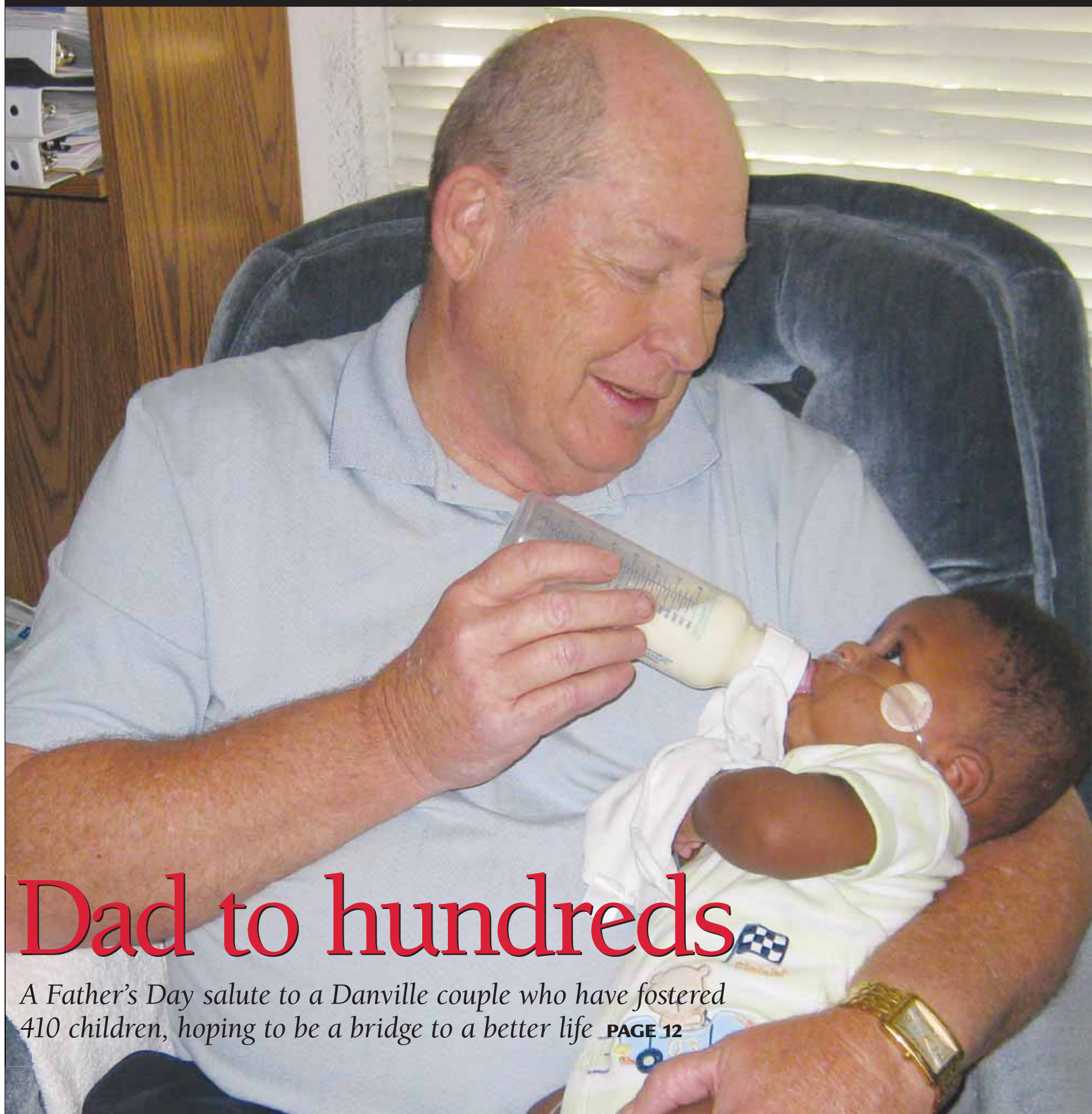


INSIDE

Vol. V, Number 7 • June 12, 2009

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

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Dad to hundreds

A Father's Day salute to a Danville couple who have fostered 410 children, hoping to be a bridge to a better life **PAGE 12**

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Streetwise

ASKED OF SENIORS AT SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

What are you going to miss about high school besides your friends?



Kellie McFarland

I am going to miss all the school spirit and events. I loved every homecoming week and school-wide dress up days. I am definitely going to miss that next year.

Nolan Theurer

The thing I'll miss most is the sense of fellowship. I'll miss being able to walk through the halls and smile at or high-five anyone I come across. I'll miss that love.



Megan O'Brien

I will miss the performing arts program as a whole and school spirit. Practically everyone at SR loves this school, and the high energy is so awesome to be involved in. I'm going to miss being a San Ramon Wolf once I'm an Azusa Pacific cougar.

Ian Charbonnet

The thing I'll miss most after high school is the opportunity to make a difference with the people I love. Music with the Chamber Singers, cleaning up with the environmental program, and playing benefit concerts with leadership have helped build my character as well as given me memories with people I'll never forget.



Megan Michaelis

I am going to miss everything about choir! The camaraderie and united focus makes coming into choir every day a blessing. Ken Abrams, our director, has made a truly unique and incredible choir program, and I cherish every moment.

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Dave Mitchell, 70, feeds and cuddles little DW, one of hundreds of foster children cared for by him and his wife Deanna over the years. Photo by Susan Astbury.

Vol. V, Number 7

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Pleasanton Weekly zzipper

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I’ve driven architects crazy. There’s been a whole roomful of them in a state hospital.”

Scott Perkins, member of the Veterans Building Steering Committee, while suggesting ways to improve the plans. See story, PAGE 5.

NEWS DIGEST

Tony La Russa sues Twitter

A fake Twitter page purporting to be that of St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa has raised the ire of the Alamo resident and prompted a lawsuit against the social networking application.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is reporting that a lawsuit was filed in late May in Superior Court of California seeking unspecified damages. The suit claimed that someone created a false account under La Russa's name and posted tweets. Some of the tweets contained disparaging remarks regarding Cardinals pitchers who had passed away and La Russa's own drunk driving arrest. The venerable coach said his concern wasn't with the content, but with someone using his name.

“There is a law against improperly using a person's name without authorization and it wasn't authorized,” La Russa said. “You can't sue everybody for criticizing you, but it seemed like that was the perception. It was improper use of the name, but it's been settled.”

No word was given as to damages, but speculation is that it will be in the form of La Russa's legal fees and possibly a donation to the Animal Rescue Foundation, a charity created by La Russa.

3.5 earthquake jolts Danville

Danville residents felt a sharp jerk Monday afternoon as an earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale struck the northern portion of town. The U.S. Geological Survey reports the quake occurred at 3:15 p.m., with the epicenter located just northeast of the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Tasajara. The depth was reported to be 5 miles.

Danville police said no damage was reported due to the quake. One resident did call in, they said, to request an officer investigate strange shaking. Officers explained to the new California resident that the town had just experienced an earthquake.

At 3:30 p.m. there was a 1.9 aftershock, according to U.S.G.S. Then at 4:52 p.m. there was another quake of 2.7 magnitude.

Tour historic old town for only \$3

A walking tour of historic downtown Danville will begin at 10 a.m., tomorrow, Saturday, June 13. Meet in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave. An experienced docent will lead an interesting and informative stroll through the downtown to numerous sites that played important roles in Danville's history.

Saturday morning tours take place on the second Saturday of each month through October. A Friday evening walking tour will take place on Friday, June 19, led by Museum docent and Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper. Friday evening tours, held on the third Friday of each month, begin at 6:15 p.m. in front of the Village Theatre, 233 Front St.

The cost of the walking tours is \$3 per person. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museumsvr.org for additional information.

Hospital board names new members

The San Ramon Regional Hospital Foundation announced the appointment of Mark Curtis, Steven Enoch, and Hermann Welm as new members of its Board of Directors

Mark Curtis is well known in the San Ramon Valley as a long time journalist with KTVU in Oakland. He now runs Mark Curtis Media, a full service multi-media company specializing in freelance news reporting, public relations and political analysis. Curtis earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Florida.

Steven Enoch has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District since July 2008 and has more than 30 years of experience in public education. Enoch earned his master's degree in school administration from California State University, Fullerton.

Hermann Welm recently retired from his company Industrial/Commercial Land Consulting. His background includes many years deciding land use issues in San Ramon as a planning commissioner, City Council member and mayor. Welm earned his master's degree in Economics from the University of Notre Dame.

For more information contact Gregg Schnepple at 275-6038.



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Head of Athenian School retiring

Eleanor Dase, who is retiring as the head of Athenian School after 35 years, has steered the school away from financial crisis, fended off feral pig invasions, hosted the Prince of Wales, and overseen two capital campaigns.

More than 650 people will gather tomorrow on the East Lawn of the Athenian School to pay tribute to Dase. Unassuming, compassionate and caring, Dase embodies the ideals of the school, said officials, which was founded in 1965 on the six pillars of Round Square schools.

“Eleanor's capable guidance over the past several years has equipped the school to prepare its students for



Eleanor Dase

the challenges of a global society,” said Ted Urban, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Because of Eleanor, Athenian has the financial and physical resources necessary to provide exceptional learning and growing experience for today's and tomorrow's students.”

Dase first taught as a math teacher at the Athenian, and in the ensuing years, served as director of College Counseling, Academic Dean, Assistant Head, and in 1992 became Head of School. The current Pillar Campaign, which ends June 30 along with Dase's role as head, is funding the new music/multipurpose building, named the Eleanor Dase Center in her honor. ■

Correction

The story in the May 29 issue on the school district budget should have quoted Trustee Paul Gardner as saying that the cost to employees of two furlough days would be less than 1 percent of an average employee's compensation, as he compared that to companies across America where employees are being asked to take permanent pay cuts of 10-20 percent. The total cost for compensation in the district is approximately 88 percent of its budget.

Vets building plan nears completion

Senior advocate blasts proposal as not doing enough

By GEOFF GILLETTE

After 10 meetings and countless hours of discussion, members of the Veterans Building Steering Committee have agreed on a basic plan and are now beginning the process of determining cost estimates.

At their June 8 meeting, members of the committee examined the latest plans drawn up by consultants ARG. The group had been scrambling to incorporate thoughts and concerns raised by the committee members at their last meeting and work them into the design.

One of the areas of greatest concern was the main hall area, which is expected to host crab feeds and other events. ARG Principal Naomi Miroglio said they shaved space out of the Prospect Avenue promenade entrance in order to gain more square footage in the hall.

The senior space, located toward the rear of the structure, was also expanded to allow a second bathroom.

Veterans asked whether there would be a way for them to have a private office in the second floor of the building. The area, designated for veterans' use, has desks for the various organizations but no room for private discourse.

Committee member Scott Perkins said the veterans will need to have an office up there where they can have frank discussions about veterans' benefits and other issues in private. He suggested several possible changes to the plan that would allow them to include the office.

"I've driven architects crazy," he joked. "There's been a whole roomful of them in a state hospital."

While the veterans were largely satisfied with the layout, some members of the senior community were less enthused.

"I don't feel the seniors have been very well represented. I think the veterans' needs have been well met but not the seniors'," said Linda Stollow.

Stollow pointed to the contemporary look of the Prospect Avenue side and reminded the committee that the Veterans Hall is a historic structure. She also stated that the look of the building does not match the overall look of the downtown.

"I don't think we're preserving downtown," she said, "too much glass. Our downtown is quaint. I don't get 'quaint' out of this."

Stollow questioned the legality of the narrow setbacks for the project, as the municipal code stipulates a minimum 10-foot setback on the street side and side yard. Her recommendation was to take the seniors out of the mix entirely.

"I don't think this is the right building for us. I don't think we're meeting

See **VETS HALL** on Page 7



GEOFF GILLETTE

Danville men join bristly brotherhood

Devon Gooch Blunden (left) and Max Zimmerman, both 22, show off their flowing facial locks as they head off to join their equally hirsute comrades on Beard Team USA, whose motto is "Growing Beards for America." The pair took a cruise from Vancouver to Anchorage, Alaska, to join the team in the World Beard and Mustache Championships. Contestants were feted in Anchorage with parades and parties before the May 23 championship. Blunden's Mutton Chops and Zimmerman's Alaska Whaler both placed fourth in the competition. Blunden and Zimmerman said going to Alaska for the championship was a great way to start off their summer vacation from UC Berkeley, where Zimmerman just graduated, and UC Santa Barbara. The pair has committed to joining Beard Team USA in representing their country in the next championship, set for 2011 in Trondheim, Norway.

Turnover at the Rose Garden

Shopping center loses spa, restaurant

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Residents arriving at the Burke Williams Day Spa in the Rose Garden Shopping Center last week were surprised to find locked doors, as the health care establishment shut down after less than a year in operation.

A sign taped to the door of the posh spa blamed the closing on the poor economic conditions and directed residents to seek out appointments at either of their locations in San Francisco or San Jose.

On Sunday, some clients grumbled over not having been informed of the closing.

"You'd think they could have called the people with reservations for treatments, rather than have us come down here and see that sign," admonished an unidentified resident.

The sign on the door also directed residents with gift cards to contact the corporate office at 1-866-239-6635 to learn how to get a refund.

The loss of the spa was not

the only blow to the relatively young shopping center. Last week also saw the closing of Amaranta, an upscale Mexican restaurant located prominently on the Rose Garden site.

Blake Hunt Ventures is the property manager for the Rose Garden. CEO Brad Blake said he was unable to comment on the closing of Burke Williams, as there may be some litigation involved in the closure. Blake stated that Blake Hunt Ventures was in negotiations

See **ROSE GARDEN** on Page 8

Road work to resurface soon

Federal funds benefiting Danville projects

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Danville will be a smoother ride after two major road resurfacing jobs, which are to begin this summer.

One project will repave parts of Green Valley and Diablo roads, paid for by the federal stimulus package passed earlier this year.

Danville will receive \$823,000 for the project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 signed into law by President Obama on Feb. 17 to create jobs and help stimulate the economy. The bill is providing \$27.5 billion in federal funding for roadway projects that are ready to begin.

"We hope to start in early summer," Town Manager Joe Calabrigo told those in attendance at last week's Mayor's Morning. "We put this together quickly."

Danville will use the funds to repair and resurface a 0.7-mile section of Green Valley Road from Stone Valley Road to Diablo Road. This section of Green Valley is heavily traveled during the school year due to the four schools in the area, noted Calabrigo.

Approximately 13,000 vehicles travel on these streets each day. The project also will upgrade sidewalks, curb ramps and traffic signals on Green Valley Road used by school children.

The project includes a 1.4-mile segment of Diablo Road from Green Valley Road to Avenida Nueva with repairs to the multi-use trail along the north side of Diablo Road that is frequently used by bicyclists en route to Mount Diablo.

The second project will resurface Camino Tassajara from Sycamore Valley Road to the eastern town limit and resurface Crow Canyon Road from Camino Tassajara to the southern town limit of Danville.

"We can't do them simultaneously," said Calabrigo, noting that the construction will be done in phases to lessen its impact on residents and businesses.

The \$6 million project is receiving federal transportation funds made available under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users signed into law by President Bush in 2005.

This project has been four years in the planning and the town will pay about 10 percent, said Calabrigo. ■

Off to greener pastures

Kids say goodbye to beloved Icelandic horse

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Carrot cake was on the menu Saturday as Villi, an Icelandic horse, spent his last day with the SonRise Equestrian Foundation, which gives riding sessions to children with emotional or physical challenges.

"Villi is the perfect horse for our program because he is sure-footed and very loving," said SonRise CEO Melanie Buerke of Danville. "As an Icelandic he is sturdy, which enables us to put larger people on him and makes him very secure for children who may feel scared or need extra support."

One of Villi's final riders was Charlie Cleberg, 11, who despite having little use of his arms has learned to ride and has even learned to rope with his feet at SonRise. At the farewell party, he raced Emma McGregor, 13, who has also struggled with physical challenges.

Villi will be leaving for Oregon where he will live with the family who loaned him to SonRise in February 2008. He was one of four therapeutic riding horses participating in the SonRise Equestrian Foundation programs at Charles Wilhelm Training Stables in Castro Valley. The Foundation is looking for another horse to replace Villi.

"Villi's quiet, unflappable and loving demeanor helps to provide children with the confidence to ride," said executive director Alana Koski. ■

SonRise Equestrian Foundation is currently planning its third annual Wine & Equine Festival and would appreciate donations of premium bottles of wine for a drawing. Anyone who is interested in more information about SonRise can call 838-RIDE (838-7433) or visit www.sonrise-equestrianfoundation.org.



KERRY BORSTAD

Emma McGregor, 13, who has struggled with physical challenges, rides Villa for the last time with the SonRise Equestrian Foundation.

Danville man charged with \$80M Ponzi scheme

BY JANET PELLETIER

The San Francisco bureau of the Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a complaint against the operators of two Pleasanton companies with an \$80-million Ponzi scheme, including a man from Danville. The SEC said the men targeted Korean-American investors with false promises of extraordinarily high returns from foreign currency (forex) trading. It alleges that Peter C. Son of Danville and Jin K. Chung of Los Altos lured approximately 500 investors in the United States, South Korea and Taiwan into their investment scheme in which funds were not traded in the forex market as claimed but instead used to pay cash "returns" to certain investors in Ponzi-like fashion.

The agency further claims that the men "misappropriated investor

money for their own personal use, including mortgage payments on Son's multi-million dollar home."

"They placed ads in Korean-language newspapers and used sales agents to target Korean-Americans in typical affinity fraud fashion as they preyed on the trust within close-knit communities," said Marc Fagel, director of the SEC's San Francisco Regional Office.

The SEC complaint, filed in federal district court in San Francisco, alleged that Son, 37, and Chung, 46, operated their scheme through SNC Asset Management Inc. (SNCA) and SNC Investments Inc. (SNCI), which maintained offices in Pleasanton, and New York City.

The SEC alleges that Son and Chung faked SNCA's supposed forex trading profits, providing investors with monthly account state-

ments showing fictitious returns.

Son and Chung drained SNCA's and SNCI's bank accounts as their Ponzi scheme was collapsing and transferred investor funds to accounts they controlled overseas, the complaint said. Investor funds were used to provide capital infusions to SNCI and pay Son's wife a salary for which she did no work, according to the complaint.

The SEC is seeking court orders freezing their assets and compelling them to return overseas assets to the U.S.

Son appeared in federal court in Oakland on Tuesday on federal criminal charges. Separately on Wednesday, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission announced civil fraud charges against Son, Chung, SNCA and SNCI, according to the SEC. ■

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Alamo social worker fulfills 'mission impossible'

Association honors Chia-Chia Chien for helping Asian Americans

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"One tiny seed can begin a garden." Following this belief, the National Association of Social Workers chose Alamo resident Chia-Chia Chien for its Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Award.

Chien, a social worker for 30 years, founded the Culture to Culture Foundation in 2001 to promote mental health in the Bay Area's Asian-American community.

"During my 28 years of clinical experience, I have seen that Asian Americans have the tendency to either wait until very late or to be in crisis before seeking help," said Chien when receiving her award May 19 in at the Santa Clara Marriott. "The Culture to Culture Foundation was established to serve the community as a bridge to help reduce the cultural stigma associated with mental illness." It also highlights the need for more bilingual and bicultural mental health professionals.

Chien was born in Taiwan and moved to the United States in 1970 as a young adult, where she earned a master's degree in social work from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and a master's in public health from UC Berkeley.

"I remember at that time, I was experiencing a lot of challenges because of culture shocks and language barriers which often time made me feel that being a first generation immigrant with English as a second language background, to become a social worker was a mission impossible," she said.

Chien was the first bilingual psychiatric social worker hired by the city of Berkeley at its Mental Health Clinic



FILE PHOTO

Chia-Chia Chien of Alamo was given a Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Award by the National Association of Social Workers.

Also, through the Culture to Culture Foundation, Chien began a Mental Health Warrior Award and the first Chinese American Mental Health Scholarship.

Chien has been recognized many times for her accomplishments, including the 2005 UC Berkeley Peter E. Haas Public Service Award.

She, too, appreciates the importance of planting seeds. "The Chinese have a saying and that is: One generation plants the trees, and the next generation will enjoy the shade," she said.

The Senior Volunteer Awards, started last year by Chia-Chia Chien, are presented to several seniors in Contra Costa County each October with a prize of \$250 and a certificate of recognition. Entries are due Aug. 31. For more information, e-mail seniorawards@sbcglobal.net.

and the only clinician bilingual in Chinese at the Adult Outpatient Program.

"Looking back, I was so amazed that most of my community services in the last 36 years have all been provided to people with cultural and language difficulties," she reflected. "And that was the job that I thought was a mission impossible before but now, to me, it's not only a mission possible but a mission essential."

Chien also started activities for Asian seniors, originally held at the Alamo Women's Club but now part of the Danville seniors who meet at the Veterans Memorial Building. Last year she began the Senior Volunteer Awards in Contra Costa County to recognize older people who give their time generously to others and to encourage more volunteerism.

VETS HALL

Continued from Page 5

the needs of seniors, especially handicapped seniors," she claimed.

She called for the classes and events held at the Town Community Center near the library to be moved to the Veterans Hall and to move the senior events to the Community Center.

Other senior advocates spoke, including Chia-Chia Chien of the Chinese American Senior Center and Barbara Smith of Contra Costa for Every Generation. Both warned the committee that with the senior population about to be impacted by the aging baby boomer generation that senior facilities will need to be prepared for the influx.

"We applaud you for planning for a new senior center," Smith said. "We just hope it's going to be big enough."

Smith added that concerns about parking should be addressed. She pointed to the drop-off lane along Prospect Avenue, which would assist passengers being let out near the entrance, but asked about those who drive. "Put yourself in the shoes of someone who is 80 years old with limited mobility," she stated.

Perkins said that while he sympa-

thizes with the seniors' concerns he wanted to remind people that this is, after all, a veterans' building.

"The veterans welcome other users, we've been welcoming other users for a long time. But I want people to realize that the veterans are giving a 13,000-square-foot lot to this project and have committed to raising \$3 million to this project. It allows for dedicated veterans' space," he said.

Mayor Newell Arnerich wrapped up the comment period by saying, "I don't want anyone to walk away thinking the seniors are not represented." He commended Kevin Donovan and Kent Rezowalli for their work in bringing senior concerns to the committee and said he feels that while the building does not provide for everything the seniors requested, it is a vast improvement over the current facilities.

"I think we've hit a homerun on most of those things," he said. "Is it better than what they have now? Absolutely."

With the committee's agreement over the preliminary concept plan, ARG will begin the process of breaking down the cost of the work and will present an initial cost estimate at the June 22 meeting. ■

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Rakestraw wins small business award

Local bookstore honored in Assembly District 15

By Geoff Gillette

In a time that is proving difficult for small business, one Danville company was the recipient of some good news recently. District 15 Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan named Michael Barnard, owner of Rakestraw Books, as the Small Business Owner of the Year. The awards ceremony took place May 26 in Sacramento.

At the event, members of the Assembly as well as the California Small Business Association gave out accolades to those businesses that best exemplify the entrepreneurial



Michael Barnard

The Bookstore in Danville, continues to be a community institution."

She added, "Small businesses make significant contributions to the California economy. They are the heart and soul of our communities."

Buchanan pointed to the many activities hosted by Rakestraw Books, including author appearances and events with local schools.

Barnard said he was thrilled to be selected as this year's recipient. "It's a terrific honor," he said, "and a nice validation of what we're doing in the community."

As the economy continues to stumble and people are spending less, Barnard said he thinks that seeing a small business thrive is a good sign.

"It must mean we're doing something right," he said. "People think local bookstores are in trouble. They're not," he added with a laugh. "The rumors of our deaths are slightly exaggerated." ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Gym class dismissed

The gymnasium next to the parking lot on Danville Boulevard at San Ramon Valley High School was torn down last week, leaving concrete stairs leading to a flattened ground. Known as the "small gym," and in previous years as the "girls gym," it was built in 1939 and was the oldest building in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. A new main gymnasium will be built on this spot, part of the school modernization program paid for by Measure A funds. Behind the site is the auxiliary gym that was completed in March 2008.



ROSE GARDEN

Continued from Page 5

with the company when it suddenly decided to pull up stakes and close down its operation.

As for Amaranta, Blake said that his company is actively seeking a replacement for the restaurant and has already lined up potential prospects.

Businesses in the Rose Garden are seeing some difficulties due to the lack of traffic coming through

the facility, a factor which led Blake Hunt to recently seek a parking variance from the Town of Danville that will allow more "personal service" oriented businesses into the shopping center.

Personal service businesses include tutoring, physical fitness, hair stylists and nail salons. Conceptually, businesses of this sort will bring in a stable base of clientele that would come for the service, then stay to eat or shop at one of the Rose Garden retailers. ■

DIABLO VIEWS

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Graduates I have known and loved

Happy graduation time, whether it's your turn to celebrate or not. I've only been to one graduation in Danville—when my daughter Zoe walked the lawn at Monte Vista High School, class of '97. But when the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" air around this time—usually on radio commercials—it's this graduation I picture, and Zoe in her black gown trimmed in red, one hand holding down her cap, hair blowing in the breeze, hurrying across the football field. Of course it was extra emotional since she is my youngest. The nest was about to empty.

I barely remember my own graduation from Notre Dame High School in San Jose—not because it wasn't memorable but because it was so darned long ago. I vaguely recall that we girls all wore white caps and gowns and carried candles as we solemnly marched up the center aisle at St. Joseph's Church, which has since been promoted to a cathedral.

My next commencement was four years later when my husband Jim graduated from Santa Clara University. This was in the late '60s and it was becoming uncool to attend one's graduation ceremony so the university mandated attendance. Morris West, author of "The Devil's Advocate" who'd received his doctorate of literature from Santa Clara, was the speaker; he rallied against the Vietnam War, an incredibly pessimistic speech at a normally optimistic occasion, ending with the words, "God help us all."

Even before his graduation Jim had been drafted but I still needed five units to graduate from San Jose State. I followed Jim to his postings and took my last two classes via correspondence courses with UC Berkeley so as much as I value my degree in journalism I never even knew when my graduation ceremony took place.

Years later when Jim received his MBA from Santa Clara, our son Pepe was 8 years old. That was a lovely ceremony in the university garden, which we attended mainly to impress upon Pepe the importance of higher education. We left our 10-month-old baby Zoe with my parents and it was a nice chance for Pepe to be alone with mom and dad for an evening, too, and a nice dinner on the peninsula.

Onto the next generation! Pepe graduated from International School Bangkok. It was about 30 percent Americans, which meant that there was no unanimity on what constitutes a graduation. To the Asians, it

was a non-event, merely the step to higher education. But the Americans wanted something special and prevailed. It was held in the ballroom of a hotel with a reception afterward. My main memory is frustration that Pepe had been one vote away from giving the student speech for the class of about 150. His would have been so much better than the mundane, "We now go forward" words of the chosen kid. Of course that's just my humble opinion. But prolific writer Stirling Silliphant, best known for "In the Heat of the Night," who lived in Bangkok addressed us all with memorable words, which unfortunately I've forgotten.

Four years later Pepe graduated from Stanford on a sunny Saturday morning. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, also a Stanford grad, spoke to the assemblage in the football stadium for the commencement. Afterward families and graduating seniors went to smaller venues for the diploma ceremony, with Pepe getting his degree in international relations in the Dohrmann Grove, a lovely outdoor spot. My main memory is that a Rockefeller girl was one of the grads and I thought how nice it would have been if Pepe had hooked up with her—then our investment in his education truly would have paid off.

Next was Zoe's Monte Vista graduation, then a few years later we were all in San Diego to see her receive her bachelor's degree from SDSU in liberal arts, education—altogether a fun weekend at a beachside hotel. The commencement itself was held in the new basketball stadium, where we had a clear view of Zoe on the JumboTron as she received her diploma. A congresswoman from Southern California spoke movingly on the importance of educators, and the ceremony was impressive for the number of advanced degrees being bestowed in so many areas of education. A few years later when Zoe earned her teaching credential she wasn't interested in the ceremony, just in moving back up north to relocate for her teaching job in San Jose.

I always get excited at this time of year for the graduations and baccalaureates, squeezed in between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Or maybe it's the kid in me that was conditioned during my childhood to get excited at the end of the school year. Graduations are exciting and poignant, marking as they do the end of high school and the beginning of something altogether different with a lot of congratulations thrown in between. Is it your turn to attend a graduation? If so, enjoy!

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

TAKE US ALONG



Something fishy:

Barbara and Jerry Buck share the Danville Weekly with a live lobster at Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia in October.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to travel@DanvilleWeekly.com or 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville 94526. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

See more Take Us Along, PAGE 23.

Perspective

Danville Weekly

*Serving the communities
of Alamo, Blackhawk,
Diablo and Danville*

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 229

Staff Reporter

Geoff Gillette, Ext. 234

Editorial Assistant

Amory Gutierrez, Ext. 221

Contributors

Susan Astbury

John A. Barry

Don Colman

Beverly Lane

Jacqui Love Marshall

Chris Scott

Maria Shen

Franklin Utchen

Stan Wharton

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director

Rick Nobles, Ext. 117

Designers

Trina Cannon, Ext. 114

Lili Cao, Ext. 120

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 120

ADVERTISING

Advertising Sales Manager

Mary Hantos, Ext. 222

Account Executives

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Inside Sales

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Real Estate Sales

Nancy Tares, Ext. 110

Ad Services

Sandy Lee, Ext. 116

Real Estate Ad Services

Tracey Fordahl, Ext. 130

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Fax: (925) 837-2278

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@DanvilleWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail: circulation@

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Traffix will help traffic and pollution

Any time a group or entity makes an effort to reduce our carbon footprint or eliminate traffic congestion, it is to be applauded. So kudos go out to the entities responsible for Traffix, a school transportation program aimed at doing both.

Busing students to local schools has been a quandary for a decade or so as fleets were recognized to be polluting the environment more than they helped the air by taking individual cars off the road. In addition, in the older diesel vehicles, fumes sometimes entered the buses through the floorboards as well as every time the door opened. Not a good way for children to begin or end their school days.

School buses were ditched due to their pollution and the expense of providing transportation to the students. As budgets continued to be cut, parents had to make other arrangements to get their children to school. More students began to ride bikes, and families formed carpools for their children. Nonetheless, traffic jams became the norm around schools, resulting in idling cars and—more pollution. Not to mention the inconvenience to the parents.

Now Traffix is launching in August, a partnership of Danville, San Ramon, Contra Costa County and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. The bus program is slated to receive \$40 million in Measure J funding in order to get the program off the ground but rider fees will help to cover ongoing costs once the program is started.

Seven schools, both middle and elementary, will initially be served by the buses. In order to work out a schedule to fully utilize the vehicles, times had to be changed for beginning and ending the school day at some campuses. Cost will be \$200 per year for students who sign up this summer; after school begins, the cost goes up to \$250. Before when the district provided busing, it cost \$400.

Traffix is expecting about 2,000 students to ride the buses. This should alleviate traffic, save wear and tear on the roads and “spare the air.” The 19 new buses have features such as full lap and shoulder seatbelts, a GPS system and air conditioning. But best of all, the brand new vehicles are state-of-the-art, with non-polluting diesel engines that are 60 times cleaner than the previous generation of buses.

LETTERS

Refining Democracy: The Budget Crisis

Dear Editor:

It is most troubling for the taxpayers to see the growing budget deficit in the State and the Federal Government.

In California, Gov. Davis was replaced by the current governor to eliminate the budget deficit. And now the deficit of \$24.3 billion is greater than ever before. At the national level the deficit is now running in the trillions. The situation is not self-correcting; it is self-degenerating.

Some causes and corrective measures are:

■ The elected officials lack knowledge in math, accounting and sound principles of economics. We need to adopt prerequisites for eligibility for election to maintain the required standard of knowledge in

the elected body.

■ In the absence of any restriction on expenditure, elected officials consider taxpayers money as free money for appeasing their voters. Each year, 10 percent of the revenue may be set aside as reserve fund, and after 10 years, expenditure may be limited to 90 percent of the reserve fund on hand.

■ In the absence of sufficient accountability, the officials act irresponsibly. For those responsible for causing the deficit, there may be a reduction in their salary and perks by the same percentage as the deficit. Further, they may be blacklisted disallowing contest in any future election.

■ Individually, the elected officials possess average intelligence, but their collective IQ is usually subzero in Congress or State Assemblies. Establish strict procedural guidelines that they add to one another, not subtract from each other.

We need propositions for voters to cover the above points.

T.S. Khanna, Alamo



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POLICE BULLETIN

Danville police break up bar fight

An altercation that started at one Danville bar and ended up outside a second drinking establishment ended with one man in the hospital and another in police custody.

Danville Police Sgt. Dan Hoffman said shortly after midnight on Sunday officers were called to the 300 block of Hartz Avenue on a report of a fight. Sgt. K.C. Wen arrived on the scene and found witnesses providing assistance to a man lying on the ground.

Witnesses told Wen and other officers the incident began at the Meenar Music Club when two men began fighting with a third. Employees of the club ejected the trio to the street where they continued their argument while walking up Hartz Avenue to Elliot's Bar.

At that point, witnesses contend, one of the pair knocked the victim, a 48-year-old San Ramon resident, to the ground. The other man, identified as Nathaniel Foster, 32, of Antioch, reportedly began stomping on the victim's head.

Hoffman said a witness reported trying to pull Foster off the victim, but retreated when Foster threatened him. The two attackers backed off the victim when the man lost consciousness.

Foster was taken into custody on a charge of felony battery. The second attacker, a Pleasanton resident, was not charged. The victim was transported by ambulance to San Ramon Regional Medical Center for treatment.

Hoffman said Foster has since been released from custody as the victim refused to cooperate with investigators in pursuing the case.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, May 31

- Unknown problem, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:06 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:22 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Camino Amigo at 9:52 a.m.
- Animal cruelty on Fostoria Way at 2:40 p.m.
- Battery on Lawnview Cir. at 11:50 p.m.

Monday, June 1

- Grand theft on W. El Pintado Rd. at 6:45 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. at 12:09 p.m.
- Identity theft on Marques Ct. at 1 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Diablo Rd. and Front St. at 3:10 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2

- Grand theft from vehicle on Country Hill Ct. at 4:47 a.m.
- Vandalism on Danville Blvd. at 6:48 a.m. and 8:38 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. at 10:08 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Creekside Ave. at 11:29 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:31 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. at 3:42 p.m.
- Vandalism on Plumeria Ct. at 5:02 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Fostoria Way at 7:28 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 7:38 p.m.

- Vandalism on Lawnview Cir. at 8:08 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Jewel Ter. And San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:20 a.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Iron Horse Trail and Laurel Dr. at 9:35 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Morninghome Rd. at 10:47 p.m.

Thursday, June 4

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 11:54 a.m.
- Vandalism on Del Amigo Rd. at 1:18 p.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Front St. at 1:28 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 8 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Danville Blvd. at 8:20 p.m. and 8:32 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Sherburne Hills at 10:23 p.m.

Friday, June 5

- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:27 a.m.
- Vandalism on Joaquin Dr. at 7:14 a.m.
- Warrant arrest on La Gonda Way at 2:48 p.m.

Saturday, June 6

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and Via Hermosa at 2:53 a.m.
- Vandalism on Alta Vista Way at 8:33 a.m.
- Grand theft in lobby of Danville P.D. at 1:45 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Cameo Dr. at 2:30 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 8:08 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Gerald A. Focha

Gerald A. Focha, a resident of Danville, died May 27 at the age of 76.

He was born Jan. 10, 1933, in Sebastopol. He attended Analy High School and went on to San Jose State. He served in the Navy during the Korean conflict, returned safely and completed his bachelor's degree in economics and finance at University of San Francisco. He sold Mack Trucks in the Bay Area for many years. He had a life-long fascination with all things mechanical, especially antique trucks, tractors, motorcycles and engines. When retired he traveled the world.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Juanita; his brother Lloyd; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Jean Menini and brother-in-law George Rodgers.

A celebration of his life was scheduled for 2:30 p.m., Friday, June 12, at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, 825 Hartz Way, Danville. Donations may be made in his name to the American Diabetes Association Memorial Honor Program, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Glen Arthur Gierke

Glen Arthur Gierke, a resident of Alamo, died May 25 at the age of 89.

He was born Jan. 11, 1920, in Chicago where he lived his early years before moving to northern Indiana. Awarded a basketball scholarship to Valparaiso University, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1948 with a double major in English and physical education and a minor in biology. After teaching in Indiana for nine years, he moved to California in 1965, where he taught biology, math and English for 23 years at Alhambra High School in Martinez, and was a mentor teacher for the science curriculum. He also coached varsity baseball for 18 years, leading the Alhambra Bulldogs to six League Championships and was named Coach of the Year in 1977.

Upon retirement in 1988, he became active in SIRs Branch 128, serving as lay chaplain for 15 years. He also served as volunteer chaplain at Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek for four years. He was an avid golfer, and a life deacon of Danville Congregational Church. He was the family storyteller as well as a clever poet.

He is survived by his wife Peggy; sons Jonathan (Helen), David, Christopher (Annette); daughter Gina Hidahl; stepson Greg Comstock; stepdaughter Cynthia Haselman (Bob); four grandchildren; brothers Leon "Bud" (Trudy) and Duane (Jackie); five step-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and

nephews. His brother Owen predeceased him in 2004.

A memorial service was held June 7 at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, where donations can be made in his name.

Jeffrey Rowe Soulages

Jeffrey Rowe Soulages, a resident of Alamo, died May 21 at the age of 51.

He was born March 29, 1958. He was a loving and devoted husband, a caring and nurturing father, a loyal partner, and a blessing to all who were in his life. In his youth, he was active in baseball, sailing and tennis. He later went on to play tennis at Washington High School in Fremont and at San Jose State University. After graduation, he joined the accounting firm Armanino McKenna LLP in 1979, and was named a partner in 1988. He was known for his personal commitment to his clients and was an advocate for fairness and decency. He coached baseball for his son, soccer for his daughter, and never missed a Cal State Fullerton baseball game, where his oldest son pitched.

He was preceded in death by his mother Jan, and son Christopher. He is survived by his wife Kristie; his children Jeffrey, Nicole and Bret; grandson Ryan; and all of his family and friends, including the Armanino Firm family.

A memorial service was held May 29 at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville.

Barbara Lord Felt

Barbara Lord Felt, a former resident of Danville, died May 26 at the age of 83.

She was born and raised in New Hampshire and came to California after World War II. She was in the Aviation Repair Business for more than 55 years and ran the business for 10 years after her husband passed away until she retired in 2002. She was a life member of Bridge Marina and Driftwood Yacht Clubs. She was a devoted wife and mother and a friend to everyone.

She is survived by three children, Gerald Golden, Judy Felt and Lewis Felt; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a brother, Gerald Lord. A memorial service was held June 7 at the Driftwood Yacht Club in Oakley.

David Battaglini

David Battaglini, a resident of Danville, died May 27 at the age of 69.

He was born March 25, 1940. His life was full of family, friends and his companion, Cash. He grew up in Danville from the first grade and lived on the Bryan Ranch with his sisters, Joyce and Sandy Ralph. He learned all phases of ranching, animal husbandry, equipment repair and carpentry. He was well-versed in his trade as a landscape contractor, trained at Cal Poly San

Luis Obispo. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and had fun riding his snowmobile and camping in the mountains. He loved to share his "bounty" of fruit, vegetables and his famous pomegranate jelly.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Susan, and children Julie (Dave Petroni) and Bryan (Kelly); his five grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins. A memorial Mass was held June 2 at St. Isidore Church in Danville. Memorial donations can be made to Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Zaida Teresa Rodriguez

Zaida Teresa Rodriguez, a Danville resident, died May 29 at the age of 56.

She was born June 22, 1952, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. She was a teacher and administrator for SFUSD for 32 years and received the Principal of the Year Award for 2008-09, and was a board member of the Western Region Puerto Rican Council, which provides scholarships for Latino youth. She truly loved working with children and was dedicated to creating a program and a world that respects the beauty and importance of children and families.

She leaves behind her mother, Zaida Diaz-Nieves; husband of 33 years, Nestor Rodriguez; daughters Vianca (Bill) Flint and Debra (Jonathan) Kendler; and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held June 3 at Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel in Walnut Creek. Memorial donations may be made to Mission or Bryant Child Development Parent Fund or the SF Kidney Foundation in her memory.

Francis Joseph McGonigle

Francis Joseph McGonigle, a resident of Danville, died May 29 at the age of 83.

He was born May 9, 1926, and grew up in Belvidere, Ill., with his parents, John and Marguerite, and his brother Jack. After graduating from Notre Dame University in 1949, he moved to the Bay Area. A defining moment in his life came in 1952, when a tragic auto accident killed his beloved wife Martha, and put him in a coma for two months. He never re-married. He was known to many county residents as the tall, thin, good-humored maitre d' at Emil Villa's in Walnut Creek for nearly 30 years. He was an accomplished golfer, and trophies from several member tournaments at Diablo Country Club adorned his bookshelf.

He is survived and missed by his four nephews, John, Tom, Tim and Jim McGonigle. A funeral Mass was celebrated June 5 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville.

See **OBITUARIES** on Page 11



OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 10

Robert Herman Rantz

Robert Herman Rantz, a resident of Danville, died May 27 at the age of 87.

He was born Aug. 3, 1921, in Chicago, Ill., and met Marie during WWII. They were married 63 years, which took them from Chicago to Arcadia and, for the past 21 years, to Danville. He enrolled in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1940, then enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He served in the Navy from 1943-46 in the LST amphibious ships, participating in 27 landings, including D-Day in the Pacific theater. After the war, he returned to complete his degree in international law and foreign trade in 1947. After spending the post war years in Chicago, his family moved to Southern California in 1953. Five years later, he started his own business, M&H Products, to serve the material handling industry with innovative products. After 23 years, he sold the business and retired. In 1986, they moved to Danville, following their daughter and son-in-law's move to Northern California. Although "retired," Mr. Rantz used his motorhome to serve meals to the workers at Miracle Ranch in Mexico; served in Sons of Retirement (SIRs Branch #128) editing the bulletin and serving as travel chairman; and providing entertainment at senior residences, convalescent homes and hospitals. He also served at Community Presbyterian Church as an usher and was involved with Prime Time. His volunteerism attracted the attention of the Town of Danville, which presented him with an Award of Merit in 2000. He would not go out anywhere without a sport coat and tie, which his father had ingrained in him at an early age.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Marie Ruth Rantz, who died March 24. He is survived by his daughters Kathie Rantz and Elizabeth Rantz Stine; and two grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held June 9 at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville.

Mary Marinkovich

Mary Marinkovich, a resident of Danville, died peacefully May 21 at the age of 88.

She was born May 31, 1920. She is survived by daughters Luci (John) Lussing and Toni (Tim) Renault; grandchildren Krista (Marc) Braden, Mark Lussing, Cera Renault; and great-grandchildren Carter and Chase Braden. Services will be held at a later date.

Ruby Morris

Ruby Morris, a resident of Danville, died May 28 at the age of 90.

She was born Sept. 12, 1918, in Oak Grove, Miss., and resided in Danville for more than 56 years. She attended the University of Missouri and graduated from San Mateo Junior College. She met Robert (Bob) Morris Sr. while working in San Francisco and they were married in 1943. In

addition to being a loving wife and mother, she was also the secretary/treasurer of Royal Jersey Inc., the business she and her husband started in 1958. She loved cooking, gardening, reading, sewing, traveling and spending time with her family. She was an active member of the Diablo Women's Garden Club for 48 years, a member and Sunday school teacher at Danville Community Presbyterian Church, a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader and was active in the PTA.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years, Bob, and her six brothers and a sister. She is survived by her children Caryl Barclay, Robert Morris Jr. (Debby), Patricia Simmons, Dede Gilliam (Richard); 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Private services were held June 6 in Farmington. Donations in her name can be made to a favorite charity or to Hospice of the East Bay for the Bruns House, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523.

Lilian Smith

Lilian Smith, a resident of Danville, died peacefully May 30 at the age of 91.

She was born in Kansas, where she met and married her husband Merle. They moved to California and settled in the East Bay. She was a longtime member of St. Philip's in Dublin. She leaves behind her four children, Jackie Slatten, Ken Smith (Joanne), Patty Smith and Jim Smith (Melody); and five grandchildren. The family would like to thank the staffs at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Villa San Ramon for the excellent care shown to their mother.

Ernest W. Alverson

Ernest W. Alverson, a resident of Alamo, died June 2 at the age of 92.

He was born Jan. 28, 1917, a native of Birmingham, Ala. He and his wife Jane Alverson migrated to Oakland from Northern Ohio in 1939 with a small baby Judy and soon-to-be-born daughter Janice. He remained stateside during the war years to build ships in the Oakland shipyards where his father William Alverson was the superintendent. At the end of WWII, they ventured into multiple restaurant and other businesses. Jane continued in the food service industry while he moved on to be a proud member of Teamster's Local 70 as a driver of heavy trucks, and they both retired in 1977. They moved to Middletown in 1983 to enjoy sun and golf, and he became a 3rd degree Mason, as well as a director on the water board. He returned to the Bay Area in 2002 to be close to his family.

He was predeceased by his wife in 1988 and his daughter Judy in 1999. He is survived by his daughter Jan; son Bill and his wife Jani; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. Services were private. Donations can be made to Children's Hospital Foundation, 747 52nd St., Oakland 94609.



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Dad to hundreds

A Father's Day salute to a Danville couple who have fostered 410 children, hoping to be a bridge to a better life

By SUSAN ASTBURY

The term "empty nesters" will never apply to Danville couple Deanna and Dave Mitchell. Not only have they raised two children of their own, but they have been parents to 410 foster children.

"You understand that your world is very small if you let it be," said Dave. "The perspective that you get from having all these children and interacting with them makes you a far better understanding person as to what the real world is like."

Dave and Deanna began fostering in 1970 while they were living in Georgia.

"One of the elders at the church convinced us that we would be good foster parents and we should try," said Dave. "We thought that we were going to get one child. The social worker showed up with six kids, all siblings, and asked how many we wanted. So we took three."

The Mitchells prepared their children, who were 6 and 8 years old at the time, for the adjustment.

"We had lots of conversations with our kids before we did this," recalled Dave. "In fact we postponed it several months. At first our son wasn't too keen on it. Then he came back and said yes, he thought he'd like to do it."

"Because we were very inexperienced, we felt sorry for these children and didn't make them go by the house rules," said Deanna. "Our own kids wanted a family conference to know why they had to follow the rules and the other kids didn't. And we said, 'You are right.' After that, truthfully, we've never had any complaints from our kids. Except for one girl, who our daughter said used to try to sneak out of the bedroom window."

Dave and Deanna decided not to take a boy older than their son or a girl older than their daughter.

"Because you're learning as you go," Dave noted. "In real living terms, in a lot of ways the foster children were older than our children because they're always older than their years."

The Mitchells moved from Georgia to Michigan and decided to give up foster care since they had been doing it for five years. Then one day their son, David, came to them and asked how to put an ad in the paper. When they asked why, he said he wanted someone to share his room. "So we called up the county in Michigan and became foster parents again," said Deanna.

The family moved to California in 1980.

Son David is 45, has a girl and a boy, and lives in Chapin, S.C.

Their daughter, Teresa Sumiyoshi, is now 47, lives in Moraga and has three daughters of her own.

She said sometimes the foster children told her stories about their lives that made her sad but mainly she enjoyed having them around.

"We never had to explain the dangers of alcohol and drugs to our children," said Deanna. "They saw living proof. It was bad in a way but it was good. ... They got life lessons that you could never probably give anyone—they wouldn't believe you."

"It didn't seem unusual to have so many foster kids because that's the way it always was," Teresa said. "It was fun to have new playmates. There were always kids around."

Teresa said that she has had to explain to her three daughters why grandma and grandpa always have different kids living with them. They have become friends with some of the children. "My kids, too, accepted that to be the norm," Teresa said.

"One of our neighbors in Georgia was having a baby and explaining to her children how you have a baby," recalled Deanna. "They looked at her and said, 'Why don't you do like the Mitchells and call up and have them delivered?'"

Another time, Deanna said, Teresa came home from school laughing.

"The teacher wanted to know how many brothers and sisters I had and I wrote down that I had to count them when I get up in the morning," said Teresa. "The teacher got really worried."

"Obviously kids come on a temporary basis," said Dave.



"Somehow people need to know the magnitude of the need for foster parents. There will always be more need than we have supply of foster parents."

Dave Mitchell, father to 410 foster children

"The hope is that these children will end up in a permanent home, whether it's returning to their parents or being adopted. But 'temporary' can mean anything from 24 hours to three years. For us, we've had children for one day to three years."

The Mitchells have learned from their foster children over the years what it means to live in poverty.

"The children are so happy to get something still in the plastic," Dave said. "Some of them have never had anything new in their lives."

The Mitchells are currently fostering a baby named DW, who was born prematurely.

"Of his 7-1/2 months, he's spent a total of five months in Children's Hospital," said Deanna. He's been with Dave and Deanna for five weeks.

"They are a wonderful team," said Nancy DeWeese, a friend, foster parent and neo-natal intensive care nurse at Children's Hospital Oakland. "They have a strong marriage. If you have a strong base, you can deal with the ups and downs. With them, nothing is too much. They are unique. They'll always take a little one, the medically fragile and infants."

Dave and Deanna are both 70. "People can be foster parents for a long time and they just have to find the right niche. Right now we can handle babies," Dave explained.

He said he wonders if everyone knows how badly foster parents are needed.

"Somehow people need to know the magnitude of the need for foster parents," said Dave. "There will always be more need than we have supply of foster parents."

"One thing is that it's not easy to be a foster parent and it's not something for everyone," said Dave. "But age is not a restriction."

"We've quit so many times. We're getting smarter now because we take time out every year for ourselves," said Deanna. "Although our last trip to Hawaii we took a child with us. We've taken children on vacation who are on feeding tubes and oxygen. It's amazing how nice people can be."

Foster parents provide a special service to children and to the community by providing ongoing care and love to those

who cannot live with their birth families, according to Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services. Foster care benefits provide cash aid to foster parents on behalf of children who meet the eligibility requirements.

In 2008 there were 66,496 children in foster care in California and approximately 1,600 in Contra Costa County, said Human Services Division Manager Lois Rutten. The children range in ages from newborns to 18 years.

"The Mitchells, who have been married over 50 years, exemplify dual parenting," said Rutten. "They are calm and have a great sense of humor. They work well with the birth parents. They're just a genuinely nice couple."

"We called Deanna and Dave three years ago with a very difficult placement for a 7 year old," she recalled. "They took him on vacation with them for two weeks to Hawaii and he came back a new kid."

"I've known the Mitchells for 17 or 18 years," she added. "I kiss Dave whenever I see him. He truly has the heart of a father."

The Mitchells, in turn, speak well of the county agency. "Contra Costa County Human Services is probably the Cadillac in the nation. We've seen all sides," said Dave.

"In Contra Costa the other foster parents are such a great support system," added Deanna. "There's a foster family network organization that you can call any time and while they might not know the answer, they can direct you where to go."

The Mitchells have seen all types of children and problems.

"One child came back to us after a number of years," said Deanna. "He had lived with us and went back to his parents, lived with us, and went back to his parents. He came back and said, 'You know, when things got bad at home, I would walk out on the street and know that there was a different way of living, and you showed me that.'"

"If you see a little child who has not smiled and you've had them for a month and they start smiling at you, it washes away everything else," she added.

"If you're an emergency home, which we are, you can get a call at any time, day or night and they say, 'We have a placement,'" Dave said. "Sometimes you get a call that says we have a baby in the hospital who is going to get released and we need a home. Sometimes you get a call that we have a child at a police station and we need to place that child. It varies by the need."

Why did the Mitchells foster so many children? "Dave really didn't have a choice," joked Deanna.

"Deanna is absolutely great with children," said Dave. "She loves children and is like the old lady in the shoe, she never wants to be without children. It's plain and simple. She worked with developmentally delayed children as a preschool teacher and she's good at it."

"We always refer to being foster parents as being a bridge," he continued. "A bridge from where the children have been, to where they will go. And you provide a bridge in between. It's a bridge to hopefully give them enough foundation under them to survive the tough hits later on."

Dave is retired from the food manufacturing business.

"Dave's work kept him busy and he traveled some when the children were young," said Deanna. "Since he's retired, he's done more child care than he did with our own children. But I think he also saw what he missed with our own children."

"You usually only hear the bad things about foster care," she added. "People don't realize the good that can be done, too. It's not perfect, far from it. But I don't know what other alternative there is. These children need a safe place. They don't have any expectations for the future at all. We just tell them that we will keep them safe. That's all we can do."

For information about being a foster parent, contact the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services at www.ehsd.org; click on Children and Family Services. Or telephone 355-7040.



SUSAN ASTBURY

Dave Mitchell says his wife Deanna is like the old woman who lived in the shoe. "She never wants to be without children," he said.



Parent photographers

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



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

New football coach named for SRV Wolves

Mark Kessler to replace Dave Kravitz

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Ending after a solid season of Wolves football, Head Coach Dave Kravitz announced in mid-May that he will not be returning to the gridiron at San Ramon Valley High School next year.

Kravitz coached the Wolves for 17 seasons, including two North Coast Section titles, one East Bay Athletic League championship and several NCS playoff visits.

On June 8, officials with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District announced that Assistant Varsity Coach Mark Kessler will be moving up to fill Kravitz' role at the helm.

"Mark Kessler has a wealth of experience, passion and commitment to San Ramon Valley High School football," said Principal Joe Ianora. "We are looking forward to Mark building

on the rich tradition that Dave Kravitz established before him."

Kessler, a health and P.E. teacher at SRVHS, has been in education for 16 years. He has 17 years of coaching experience including head coaching at both Las Lomas High School and Benicia High School. In addition he spent time at the collegiate level, as the quarterbacks and running backs coach at Solano College.

Ianora said he is banking on that experience as Kessler takes over command of the Wolves. "Mark's background and community involvement make him the natural choice to take this program to new heights," Ianora stated.

Kessler will be stepping in as Varsity Head Football Coach/Program Coordinator starting with the 2009-10 season. ■



Championship play

Yankees pitcher Sam Mink, No. 9, tags the Giants player on his way to second base as the Yankees head for a 7-4 win in this game and the San Ramon Valley Little League AA Championship, played at Los Cerritos Middle School.

Team members and coaches are (back row, l-r) John Stame, Kevin Rantz, Geoff Mink, Dave Holt, (second row) Robbie Chambers, Jack Holt, Daniel Medley, Danny Carpentier, Erik Karlsekind, Ben Stame, (front row) Volney Spaulding, Sam Mink, Ryan Rantz, Grant Fautt, Matthew Trinkus and Ben Morales.



Cyclones spin way to the top

The Danville Alamo Cyclones won the MVP Flight Spring League for third-grade boys, after a 6-2 regular season record. Then at the championships held May 30-31, the Cyclones beat Sportstrong Blue, 31-28 in the semifinals and the Warriors Basketball Club, 31-25, in the Championship Game. Team members are (front, l-r) Chris Koenig, Hunter Perkins, Dominic Armanino, Jackson Pearce, AJ Tammen, Jordan Gutierrez, Cole Peterson, (kneeling) Coach Dale Pearce, Coach Greg Johnson, (back) Coach Mark Isola, Joe Isola, Dominic Freitas, Spencer Dettlinger, Daniel Medley, Matthew Johnson, Nate Jelavich and Coach John Perkins.



Undefeated Yankees are Danville Little League champs

The Danville Little League, Single A Division, Yankees were undefeated in both the regular season and the post season, perhaps for the first time. The final game was played Saturday, June 6, at Osage Park against the Giants. Team members are Mason Evans, Cole French, Max Gersho, Blake McDonald, Copper Page, Luke Psomas, Devon Shah, Brian Spears, Ben Weinberg, Grant Westbrook, Jake Wilson and Zach Wilson. Manager is Brian Wilson; coaches are Kraig Evans, John Spears and Steve Psomas.

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Monte Vista High School

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Alaina Ann Abbott
Tania Yassamin Abdollahi
Jessica Danielle Acton
Daniel James Aitchison
Emad Kevin Alazzeh
Paulina Katarina Alexander
Nigina Ali
Trevor James Allain
Christian Alexander Allinson
Amil Madina Amin
Erik Michael Anciaux
Colton Pierce Anderson
Neelgopal Anderson
Kailani Kay Andrade
Marcus Alexander Andrews
Desiree Ansari
Mark Stewart Appel
Mina Arbabaraghi
Sameera Arbabaraghi
Jordyn Elizabeth Armstrong
Suzanne Marie Arnett
Gregory Michael Ashton
Freshta Atiqi
Alex Oliver Attard
Alexander Taylor Atwood
Umber Afzal Aulakh
Ryan Donald Aveni
Daniel Robert Kazuo Awai
Sofia Azizi
Kendyl Elise Bachelor
Christopher Back
Grace Jeehyun Baek
David Nasser Bafaiz
Travis Carter Bailey
Sara Elizabeth Banke
Madeline Jane Banneck
Brian Nicholas Barbour
Julia Christine Bareiss
Brent Michael Barenberg
Skyler Ryan Barnes
Caesar Joseph Taloma Basa III
Natasha Elaine Batalha
Elizabeth Ann Battles
Chelsea Danielle Bautista
Michael Tyler Bealmear
Christine Suzanne Beeman
Drew Tyler Bell
Katherine Helen Bennett
Alysia Cecile Bensan
Eric Kenneth Loughry Bergquist
Nipun Bhandari
Shaiela Islam Bhuiyan
Zehui Brad Bi
Amanda Blair
Daniel Clark Blakey
Shelby Mariah Blanco
Andrew Keith Bonner
Katherine Grace Boomer
Christopher Michael Borges
Cian Connolly Bouma
Taysa Marie Bowers
Paige Kathleen Bradley
Andrew Paul Bradshaw
Eric Andrew Brandt
Rachael V. Brandt
Taylor Andrew Brewster
Kaitlin M. Brown
Kelsey Ayn Brown
Rachel Kathleen Brown
Melanie Nicole Buich
Jennifer Hong Burton
Jillian Sarah Bush
Jared Michael Butler
Olivia Marie Butler
Elena Marie Cadet
Lori Campbell
Barissa Cappelletti
Alexa Kristin Carbajal
Nicole Theresa Carey
Andrew Douglas Carlson
Christopher Casey
Caroline Constance Helen Cella
Andrew Robert Cesca
Katherine Burke Chabolla
Rohan Niranjani Chakicherla
Evan J. Chan
Amiel David Chanowitz
Sheena Chaudhuri
Jeffrey Robert Chavez
Phillip Christian Chavez

Congratulations, class of 2009

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

It's that time of year again, for caps and gowns, Pomp and Circumstance, and graduation parties. Proud parents and grandparents, and thrilled graduating seniors—although some may be feeling sadness, too, at the ending of their high school days. The comprehensive high schools graduate this evening, June 12, while Del Amigo holds its graduation ceremony June 16.

This year's count of graduates in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is:

- Monte Vista High School: 654
- San Ramon Valley High: 498
- California High: 598
- Del Amigo High School: 32
- Venture Independent Study: 152

To honor the graduates, the Danville Weekly will devote space next week to photos that people send in of their graduates in their caps and gowns. So bring your cameras to the graduations (as if you weren't already!), and e-mail jpegs to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com by noon Monday, June 15. Be sure to include the name of the graduate, the school and his or her plans for next year.

Thanks, and congratulations!



Ryan Michael Chavez
Joshua Harrison Chazin
Jeffrey Huey-Jay Chen
Kevin Chen
Calvin George Chin
Megan Choe
Anson Choi
Coral Siemyee Chou
Lauren Nicole Chouinard
Christi Minjung Chung
Jane Crystal Chung
NÓcholas J. Chung
Samuel T. Clark
Hannah Christine Clay
Elizabeth Porter Clayton
Talia Celine Clayton
Jacob Tyler Conerly
Jennifer June Connor
Trevor MacKenzie Cooper
Brittany Cordova
Alexandra Marie Corvino
Elyse Christine Coutermarsh
Gabrielle Huntoon Cowden
Dylan James Croft
Victoria Grace Cruz
Alexandria Mia Cruz-Gibson
Lindsay Chuang Cui
Trevor James Cuneo

Jesse Tyler Cunha
Ryan Robert Curtis
Esther Cynn
Sasha Samir Daing
Sebastian T. Darby
Summer Leigh Dashe
Brandon Alexander Davis
Caitlin Leigh Davison
Kristofer Bruce de Porcel
Nicole Christina Dear
Anna Rebecca DeChant
Joseph Shawn Delaney
Eric Daniel DeLorme
Aimee Elizabeth Dewan
Manraj Singh Dhami
Troy Austin Dillingham
Andrea Justine Dimayuga
William Patrick DiMichele
Alexis Gabrielle Dinsbach
Christopher Dittmore
Robert Allen Dodge
Parker James Doliber
Michael Jakub Domalewski
Kelsey Marie Dondero
Connor Patrick Donley
Ali Doroudchi
Clare Catherine Dowling
Nicholas Robert Dreyer

Alexandria Noelle D'Souza
Chelsea Ann DuHaime
Alexa Siobhan Duncan
Tony Minh Duong
Alexander John Duran
Taylor Christopher Durand
Lauren Elizabeth Edberg
Katharine Weaver Edson
David Aaron Eliahu
Katherine Louise Elmer
Mikaela Crescencia Evora
Encarnacion-Warque
Alexandra Kelsey Engle
Julia Nikitina Engstrom
William Lee Engstrom
Michael Russel Erb
Zachary Adam Ertz
Matthew Gerick Espineli
Danielle Corinne Evert
Madison Valdez Fairbrother
Yiwen Fang
Jamie Lynne Falkenhainer
Shauna Kealoha Falvey
Jonathan Fernandez
Kaela Elizabeth Fonzi
Lauren Nicole Foss
Alexandra Franceschi
Kelly Noel Francis

Kenneth J. Frazier
Brieanne Elizabeth Freitas
Courtney Elizabeth Fuhrman
Michael-Joseph Atienza Fulgencio
Michael John Fullen
Joshua Arden Fuller
Beverly Christina Fung
Michael Scott Gailey
Xin Gao
Brendon James Garcia
Zachary D. Gardner
Chelsea Tate Garecht
Nicholas Kay Garitano
Patrick Michael Garvin
Emily Grace Gary
Anthony Gedeon
Carly Anne Geiger
Chelsea L. Gerber
David C. Ginther
Francesca Giovacchini
Amy Marie Gluchowski
Kirsten Boysen Golden
Albert William L. Gonzales
Nicholas Hilario Gonzalez
Taylor Anne Gonzalez
Audrey Michele Gordon
Moran Goren
Kranthi Kumar Gouravaram
Caroline Marie Grape
Victoria Helene Grape
Haniyyan Ashaunti Gray
Adam Nathaniel Green
Abigail Anne Greenberg
Govinda Parashar Gupta
Natasha S. Gupta
Neena Rani Gupta
Olivia Xochitl Gutiérrez
Blake Charles Haisley
Bahar Hajian
Meghan Hammitt
Jennifer Han
Blake Wayne Hansen
Ryan André Hansen-Maffet
Anum Sehar Haque
Alyssa M. Harkins
Kevin Harnyoot
Alicia Jade Harrell
Clare Harrington
Nicholas Andrew Hart
Christine A. Hatzikokolakis
Kristiana Ashley Hausman
Alexandra Hay
David He
Mark Robert Heavey
Alexander Hebels
Justin Hebels
Danielle Lauren Heller
Thomas Pierce Hemmingsen
Yvonne Ailsa Henderson
Michelle Marie Henneman
Karl Stefan Hepner
Anthony Rey Hernandez
Erin Leigh Higgins
Jared Allen Hill
Evelyn Yi Lin Ho
Stephanie Kuni Ho
Alex Jason Hofmann
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Tyler Lawrence House
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Leanne Marie Howes
Leslie Eleanor Howes
Stacey Y. Hsi
Kevin David Hsiue
Kyle Joseph Hughes
Matthew Bryan Hyland
Abdul Azziz S. Ikharo
Nicole Marie Isbell
Lorie Ellen Ivory
Sandra Brianna Jacob
Collin William Jacobs
Joseph George Jaffe
Kelsey Cynthia James
Taylor Cole Jandegian
Alexander Pierce Jansen
Jordan Alexandra Jeha
Alexandra Elizabeth Jensen
Eric Oh Jensen
David Timothy Jew
Xiaoqi Jiang
Anna Jennae Linsangan Jiz de Ortega
See **GRADUATES** on Page 16

GRADUATES

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Ayesha Kaur Johal
Evan Page Johanson
William Bradford Johns
Ellen Hepplewhite Jokerst
Christian Robert Jones
Kelsey Renon Jones
Daniel Jordan
Michael Kajioka
Danielle Raquel Kaminsky
Taylor L. Kane
Sonam Kapoor
Anna Kathleen Karleskind
Yara Kenzie Karmalawy
Janelle Diane Kaufer
Daniel James Kawashima
Sean J. Kellejian
Erica Noelle Keller
Amanda Leigh Kelley
Samantha Rose Kelley
Taylor Michele Kelley
Kaitlin Ann Kelly
Aakash Keswani
Mohammed Owais Khan
Dana Lee Kilian
Brian Kim
Jessica Ahyoung Kim
Kwang Rae Kim
Myung Hyun Kim
Crystal Gem Ong King
Zachary Aaron King
Elliot Wing Ho Ko
Lauren Michelle Kong
Natsuko Konishi
Elizabeth Jain Koo
Dema J. Kordahi
Kristen Alyssa Kortschak
Grant Michael Kourey
Lisa Kramer
Lauren Marie Kuemmelers
Claudia Kung
Morgan Nicole Landes
Chloe Alexandra Langon
Jennifer Liu Larsen
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Shirley Lee Lau
Blake Charles Lawlor
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Kaitlyn Sierra Leadabrand
Andrea Corine Lee
Christine Alicia Lee
Ian Jinho Lee
Sandy Arim Lee
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Lauren A. Lemma
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Alyssa Carmella Leone
Angelina Jamie Leong
Jennifer Ying Lependorf
Chenise Lauren Leveriza
Emily Rose Lewis
Stephanie Evelyn Lewis
Jordan Li
Linda Li
Oscar Man Hin Li
Isaac K. Liang
Danielle Rose Lichter
Jacob Andrew Liebert
Jolene Nichole Liljeberg
Jack Lin
Clara Marie Lindberg
Alexandra Elizabeth Lodwig
Thomas Darrell Logan
Justin William Lee Lollar
Aaron Alan Long
Michael Martin Loretz
Meredith Rae Louden
Christopher Michael Louie
Lauren Aleyna Loveless
Broderick John Luebke
Andrew Joseph Luhrs
Kenneth Glenn Edward Luke
Sabina Marie Lundgren
Ashley Catherine Marie Lynch
Brendan Chaney Lynch
Brittany Elizabeth Leigh Lynch
Kristin Michele Lynch
Troy Emerson Lyon
Emma Kristine MacDonald
Russell Coleman Maginn
Tanuj Mahmood
Neil Kanth Malani
David Andre Malloy
Madisyn Claire Maloney
Felix Yohanes Manan
Shazia Salima Manji
Lynda Micaela Mantle
Tiffany Feng Mao

Joseph Bernard Marcinkowski
Natasha Marks
Jessica Willow Marquait
Jake Martinovich
Emily Marie Mason
Julia Grace Mason
Imran Ross Masood
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Krispal Singh Matharu
Christopher Hughes Mathis
Kaitlyn Frances Flaton McCann
Nicholas Armando McCracken
Jennifer Lynn McCullough
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Keshia Anne Mercado
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Elliot Christopher Moore
Jacob Moranville
Zachary Dean Morgan
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Jordan G. Morris
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Samuel Walter Mosle
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Michael John Ormsby
Charles John Ott, IV
Kelly Anne Outcalt
Amanda Michele Owens
Jordan Pang
Michelle Ming-Hsuan Pang
Shivarni Bharat Patel
Natalie Pau
Julia C. Percy
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Pamela Nicole Peters
Matthew William Petersen
Jacquelyn Michelle Peterson
Taylor Dolores Peterson
Louis Tai Phan
Kayla Marie Phelps
Tyerelle Artez Phillips
Alejandro Antonio Pineda

Kevin Daniel Po
Lea Irene Porteous
Kiley Jacqueline Powell
Yamina Pressler
Trevor Linville Proctor
Kristopher Michael Profit
Aurora Corinne Pujol
Marium Imran Qureshi
Anastasia Andreyevna Radchenko
Alexandra Elizabeth Radford
Peter Andrew Radich
Caitlin Elizabeth Rahn
Sukhdeep Singh Rai
Mark Joseph Rajeski
Thomas Rambajan
Swetna Ramireddy
Gerika Isela Ramirez
Carolyn Janette Randolph
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Lauren Anne Raponi
Niveen R. Rasheed
Anubhav Rastogi
Cathryn Maria Ratazak
Kirsten Helene Ratliff

Manuela Razzouk
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Adarsh Gauravaram Reddy
Malori Anne Redman
Andrew Overton Reeves
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Katlyn Ann Reifers
Genaro Michael Reneau
Julienne Marie Tuanquin Reyes
Yvette Elizabeth Reyes-Medina
Alma Angelica Reynoso
Kristina Ashley Richman
Erich Stevenson Ritter
Raymond J. Roach
Austin Joseph Roberts
Kathryn Laura Robertson
Kyle Daniel Robertson
Megan Anne Robinson
Monica Antoinette Robinson
Ryan Robert Robinson
Michael Sean Roderick
Clinton James Roemer
Jade Mieko Roland
Christian James Ronda
Bria Janay Ross
Nicole Danielle Ross
Christopher Lu Rubey
Mark Theophilus Rufin
Jacqueline Leigh Rush
Devon Nicole Ryan
Matthew Joseph Ryan
Percia Safar
Matthew Phillip Saincome
Melanie Ann Salvoni
Gabriel Ellison Sandler
Robert Alexander Santos
Sarah N. Sarvi
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Alissa Frances Sauk
Cody Draper Saunders
Grant Roy Saunders
Jake Saunders
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Lev Ryan Williams
Zachary Louis Williams
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Jacob Patrick Zoellner
Hedieh Zomorodi
Alexander P. Zou

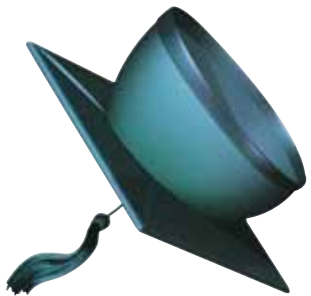
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Angela Marie Accomazzo
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Reed Michael Summers Pirkle
Shelby Taylor Sutton
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Amanda Grace Swenson
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Zachary Evangelista
Christina Figueroa
Nicholas Fuller
Brandon Gay
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Jasmine Hampton
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Jordan Hiscox
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See **GRADUATES** on Page 18

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THE WINE GUY



By DON COLMAN

Getting more than you paid for

Ever wonder why some wines are really expensive and others are cheap? What could make this happen? There are a variety of factors that wineries use to determine the price of wine. By no means is this article able to look at the entire economics of the wine industry, but it will look at one winery that produces extremely high quality wines at a reasonable price.

Concannon Vineyard is a little, big winery in the Livermore Valley. It produces a complete range of wines, from light whites to heavy reds and everything in between, all for a reasonable price. They are able to do this for two main reasons:

Firstly, this is a family owned vineyard and has been since 1883. This is important because if you purchased a winery in the early 2000s, you most likely paid top dollar for the land. As residents of California know, top dollar for land simply means that you have a mortgage/debt. All of the servicing of this debt equals top dollar for the wine, irrespective of the quality of the grapes. Vineyards that have been in the same family for decades (or in

Concannon Vineyard 2006 Petite Sirah

this case more than a century) have little debt and nice old vines producing flavorful grapes.

Secondly, it is located in Livermore Valley. There is an aura associated with being in Napa, France, Italy, etc., which Livermore does not have—keeping the cost of the wine down. This is purely a perception issue; however, it leads to less demand. Less demand equals more reasonably priced wine. In addition, in the current economic environment we are seeing the price of imported wine rise quickly. This is caused by a dropping U.S. dollar. U.S.-based wineries are essentially insulated from falling or rising currencies, allowing for price stability.

As to the quality of their wine, I tasted the 2006 Petite Sirah, Limited Reserve (about \$15). I was looking for a wine that could stand up to red meat yet not be overpowering if I decided to have chicken instead. Typically a Petite Sirah would not fit this bill, but in this case it was perfect. It is a medium to deep colored, ruby red wine that is flawlessly clear.

When looking at a wine, there are three main areas that I study: aroma, taste and balance. The smell of this wine is a refreshing change from

many of the berry-scented wines that dominate the California market. I found this one to be loaded with cherries and red peppers (hint: cook something with peppers in your meal, it will expand the flavor of the wine). At 2006, it is still a young wine and should age well for the next five years, but it is certainly ready to drink now.

As for taste, it is a somewhat dry yet crisp wine, which is very flavorful. It is loaded with vanilla and oak flavors, and the tannins are just enough to give it a medium bodied feel. It would pair very well with darker white meat (pork, dark turkey meat, etc.) or light red meat. Perhaps try it with a turkey burger smothered in chili.

Finally, I love to find a wine that is balanced—something that impresses you as much with the scent, the taste and the finish. Concannon has done a marvelous job here as its wine is consistent all the way from start to finish. This certainly qualifies as a bottle of wine that could be served as the first bottle, but is cheap enough you could serve it as the last one, too. A perfect everyday wine. Until next time, Cheers!

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

GRADUATES

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Venture

Alexandria Alvarez
Victoria Alvarez
Sarah Alves
Olivia Anderson
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Behnoosh Bahador
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Harlan Beaver
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Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

Art

ART GALLERY RECEPTION Kevin Milligan Gallery will host a reception from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at the gallery, 408 Hartz Ave., Danville. The show will feature American landscape photography, porcelain pieces and oil paintings. This event is free and wine will be served. Call 309-4648.

Author Visit

RAKESTRAW BOOKS The bookstore will host Chandler Burr at 7 p.m., Friday, June 26, at the bookstore, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Camps

CAMP EDGE VACATION BIBLE CAMP Children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to participate in Danville Congregational Church's Camp Edge from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 15-19, at the church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Cost is \$50; fee assistance is available. Call 837-6944 or visit www.danvillechurch.com.

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

SHAKESPEARE FOR KIDS Role Players and the YMCA will host a new camp where students will use their individual creativity as writers, artists and actors to learn about Shakespeare from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday, July 13-24, at Alamo Elementary School, 100 Wilson Rd. Cost is \$295. Call 831-1100

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host Camp Edge for children including two sessions: 6:15-8:15 p.m., Sunday-Thursday, June 21-June 25 (optional family-friendly dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m.), and 9:15 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 22-26, at

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$50 for the morning session and \$45 for the evening session. Call 837-5243 or visit www.srvumc.org.

Clubs

DANVILLE JOB'S DAUGHTERS Job's Daughters International is an organization for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips and more. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505 or email IOJD247@yahoo.com.

DELTA NU PSI Delta Nu Psi provides packages to troops in the War Zone. The group collects donations before the third Friday of every month in front of Longs Drug Store in Alamo and before the third Saturday at Lunardi's in Danville. It puts together the packages on the third Wednesday of every month. For information, e-mail Alicia at deltanupsi@comcast.net.

SAN RAMON VALLEY NEWCOMERS CLUB This club will host a luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 18, at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. Spencer Christian from "View From the Bay" will be the guest speaker. For information, call Paula at 735-6483.

Concerts

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

PAUL SCHEFFERT TRIO Pianist, composer and arranger Paul Scheffert, will present a unique brand of trio jazz as a part of the Jazz at Peace concert series at 5 p.m., Sunday, June 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This concert is free, but donations

Kiwanis 4th Annual Parade

presented by Heller JEWELERS

Parade Theme - Celebrating Our Youth!

Saturday's parade starts at 9am

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SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IN LIVORNA PARK Alamo Parks and Recreation presents the 2009 Summer Concert Series in Livorna Park with four concerts from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fridays. Future concerts will take place June 26; July 17, July 31 and Aug. 14. These concerts are free. Visit www.alamore.org.

Events

15TH ANNUAL BANCROFT SCULPTURE EXHIBIT A juried art exhibit will be displayed in the Ruth Bancroft Garden June 19-July 19, located at 1552 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. The garden is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. A preview party with live music and organic food will be held from 5-8 p.m., Friday, June 19; cost is \$60. Call 944-9352 or visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

BLUE STAR MOM CARE PACKAGE PACKING Help the Blue Star Moms pack and mail 700 care packages for the troops from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, June 20, at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, 12943 Alcosta Blvd. For information, call 648-1549 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING Learn how to earn an immediate and residual income by starting your own business from 7-8 p.m., every Thursday, at Hotel Sierra, 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Strike up the band: The Danville Community Band will present its final concert of the season, "Total Request: LIVE," at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 14, at Dougherty Valley Performing Art Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$12 and \$15. Call 973-2787 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

Ramon. These meetings are free. Call Roy at 548-3511.

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

FOOD SHOWCASE Experience the tastes of the world—from Romania to India to Brazil, all handmade by local chefs and bakers, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at Ensembles, 2550-B2 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Admission is free with the recommended donation of a canned goods for the Alameda County Food Bank. Call 855-8355.

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY The Rose Garden will host a Summer Block Party from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, June 25, in the shopping center, located at Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Road, Danville. There will be live music, skateboard ramps, a bounce house, balloon artist and more. Visit www.rosegardenshops.com.

WALKING TOURS OF DANVILLE Karen Stepper will host walking tours of historic downtown Danville at 6:15 p.m., every third Friday of every month, meeting at Village Theater, 233 Front St. Patty Dobbins will host walking tours starting at 10 a.m., on the second Saturday

of every month, meeting at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Tours are from April through October. Cost is \$3 per person. Call 837-3750.

Film

MOONLIGHT MOVIES ON TOWN GREEN Town of Danville hosts Moonlight Movies on Town Green from 8:15-10:30 p.m., Fridays, June-August, on the Town Green in front of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. "The Spiderwick Chronicles" on June 19; "Neverending Story" on July 17; "Zathura" on July 31; and "Coraline" on Aug. 14. Call 314-3400.

Fundraisers

CHARITY BOWL San Ramon Valley Firefighters will host a fundraising charity bowl from 2-6 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at Danville Bowl, 200 Boone Court. Families will be able to bowl and a team tournament will follow afterward. Proceeds will benefit the families of Oakland PD fallen officers. Cost is \$20 for adults; \$5 for kids; \$250 for a team with five players. For information, call Jonas at 989-6348 or visit www.srvff.org.

PROUD FATHERS BOWL-A-RAMA Family Stress Center will host a bowling extravaganza from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Sunday, June 14, at Danville

Bowl, 200 Boone Court. Cost is \$25. Proceeds benefit the Proud Fathers Program. Call 827-0212, ext. 107 or visit www.familystresscenter.org.

SECOND ANNUAL ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND As a part of the National Lemonade Days, the second annual Alex's Lemonade Stand will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at Safeway, 2505 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Proceeds benefit cancer research for children.

Kids and Teens

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY Danville Library will host numerous children's programs including "The River Otter Circus" with Swizzle Puppets at 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 16; "Hard Day's Knight" at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 18; cowboy storyteller Lariat Larry at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18; and Timothy James, a comedy magician, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

STORYTIME WITH THE FARMER Preschoolers are invited to spend an hour of storytime, songs, crafts, games and a snack from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, June 17, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$6 for non-residents. Children must be accompanied by an adult, but only children need to register. Pre-registration is required; call 973-3284.

WHEN MOM OR DAD HAS CANCER School-age children participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns and will meet on Saturday, June 13, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Miscellaneous

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

FREE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, Powerpoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889.

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

Political Notes

DESAULNIER STAFF AT FARMERS MARKET Sen. Mark DeSaulnier's staff will be at the Danville Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 20, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. They will answer questions about state services and provide informational materials. For information, call 942-6082.

TRI-VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB This club will host guest speaker Mary Lia Kelley of Tri Valley Cares at 7 p.m., Monday, June 15, at the Livermore Library, 1188 S Livermore Ave. Ellen Augustine & Barry Hermanson will also speak about the "Not My Priorities Campaign." This event is free and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Call 451-4303.

Recreation

TRAIL MIXERS Town of Danville will host a Trail Mixer from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 13, at Eagle Peak Loop Trail at the Bollinger Staging Area. For information, call 314-3400.

Support Groups

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

HEART SUPPORT GROUP This group provides support for people with heart disease, who have undergone a heart procedure and their families and caregivers and meets from 1:30-3 p.m., on the fourth Saturday of every month, at Kaiser Hospital Medical Office Building, 3rd Floor, Walnut Creek. Hear and learn from healthcare professionals speak on a variety of heart-related topics. Call 708-4151 or visit www.mendedhearts254.org.

HOSPICE OFFERS SUPPORT Hospice of the East Bay (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa) offers a variety of support groups and workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. All groups and classes are offered for a fee and require pre-registration. Fees are waived for those who cannot afford them. Call 887-5678, ext. 1068.

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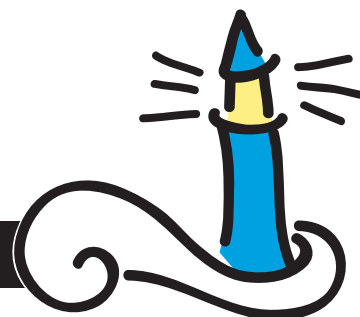
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Danville Band Concert-JUN14



Danville Community Band Concert
The Danville Community Band announces its season finale concert "Total Request: LIVE", Sunday, June 14 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Dougherty Valley Performing Art Center in San Ramon. The Concert features pieces requested by band members, including works by Shostakovich, Sousa, Ticheli, Holst, and more.

The Dougherty Valley Performing Art Center is located on the Dougherty Valley High School campus, at 10550 Albion Road, San Ramon, 94582. Tickets for the concert are \$12-\$15. Contact the San Ramon Performing Arts box office at: 925/973-ARTS or online at: www.sanramonperformingarts.com.



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TAKE US ALONG



Hey, mon, it's good reading: Shae, Tatum and Carly Vomund share the Weekly with a steel drum band in St. Maarten, the Caribbean Islands.



Capitol reading: The Corritone family—Mike, Angie, Robert and Joey—sit in front of the capitol building in "Miniland" at Legoland in Southern California during their Thanksgiving trip last year.

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Ravishing Ramona

Meet a strikingly beautiful black and white tuxedo housecat named Ramona. Ramona is a playful young adult with a sweet disposition and a desire for a loving home of her own. Ramona is declawed so she needs to be an indoor-only pet. She is vaccinated, spayed, and Fiv/Felv tested negative. Ramona has fur as soft as velvet, pretty green eyes, a cute pink nose and long white whiskers. Isn't she beautiful? Visit this friendly girl (pet # 85308) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

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Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$979,000
Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,249,000

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Danville Weekly

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Bulletin Board

dcb
TOTAL REQUEST - LIVE

Danville Community Band Concert
The Danville Community Band announces its season finale concert "Total Request LIVE", Sunday, June 14 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center in San Ramon. The Concert features pieces requested by band members, including works by Shostakovich, Sousa, Ticheli, Holst, and more.

The Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the Dougherty Valley High School campus, at 10550 Albion Road, San Ramon, 94582. Tickets for the concert are \$12-\$15. Contact the San Ramon Performing Arts box office at: 925/973-ARTS or online at: www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

Research Study

Study Participants Needed

DO YOU HAVE CORONARY HEART DISEASE

- If your doctor has told you that you have coronary heart disease, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study.
- Study participants will receive study drug, related medical care at no cost and compensation for time and travel.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

Alamo

Total sales reported: 3

Lowest sale reported: \$650,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,129,000

Average sales reported: \$809,667

Danville

Total sales reported: 8

Lowest sale reported: \$385,000

Highest sale reported: \$3,700,000

Average sales reported: \$1,228,750

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 13

Lowest sale reported: \$150,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000

Average sales reported: \$484,308

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2009

Alamo

24 Crest Avenue Stevens Trust to M. Pryde for \$650,000

101 Easy Street Chavez Trust to J. Tenney for \$650,000

3138 Oakwood Lane Boies Trust to D. Towery for \$1,129,000

Danville

526 Farragut Place Combs Trust to C. & J. Gallo for \$1,812,000

317 La Spezia Court Lennar Homes to D. & A. Moyer for \$1,115,000

712 Lakeside Court Esposito Trust to T. Kane for \$518,000

1901 Peters Ranch Road Hounslow Trust to S. & S. Hirbod for \$3,700,000

247 Pulido Road Lawrence Trust to B. & P. Erland for \$755,000

59 St. Timothy Court J. & K. McBane to G. & J. Mitchell for \$865,000

606 Sycamore Circle Tucker Trust to S. Davis for \$385,000

3908 Welshland Street Shapell Industries to J. & J. Goldberg for \$680,000

Walnut Creek

1925 2nd Avenue C. Chappel to M. Arrigoni for \$718,000

1882 Apollo Court M. Rider to J. Pirajon for \$480,000

415 Augustus Court Derstepanian Trust to A. & S. Mishra for \$470,000

1826 Castle Gate Road C. Ramsower-Pearlstei to M. & M. Behrens for \$1,600,000

688 Charleston Court B. Thomas to J. & J. Wong for \$455,000

2756 Larkey Lane Sager Trust to Sihner Trust for \$470,000

3171 Lippizaner Lane Reed Trust to M. Beard for \$490,000

300 North Civic Drive #303 A. Hohndorf to C. Lee for \$163,000

2738 Oak Road #154 M. Williams to S. Drackert for \$250,000

175 Sierra Drive #304 Nomura Home Equity to H. Emory for \$200,000

1552 Siskiyou Drive Mohrhoff Trust to F. Khabiri for \$578,000

1860 Tice Creek Drive #1246 Barclay Trust to Terzian Trust for \$272,000

1240 Walker Avenue #103 Bank of New York to C. Daley for \$150,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

5 BEDROOMS

70 Zand Lane **\$1,075,000**
Sun 1-4 Remax Accord 895-2804

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

3038 Yuma Way **\$339,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3844

5 BEDROOMS

4222 Remillard Ct **\$1,779,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-3534

San Ramon

5 BEDROOMS

124 Marsh Place **\$789,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential Ruby Hill 417-2250

Danville Weekly
PRINT & ONLINE

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Situated on a flat .49 acre lot, with 4297 sq.ft. Tuscan Beauty was built in 2003. All the bells and whistles. \$1,475,000

5 Bedroom Beauty on 1.8 Acres

X2000



This beautifully updated professionally landscaped home has been featured on local garden tours. Large pasture. \$1,899,000

Danville El Pintado Loop

SHORT SALE!



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

Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Blog
<http://thecombsteam.blogspot.com>



New Price \$698,950 50 Sun Valley Drive, Walnut Creek



Newly constructed in 2006, 4 BR/2 BA home on .36 acres. 2411 sq. ft. Located on quiet street close to shopping & schools. Easy freeway access. www.50sunvalley.com

Danville

240 Alicante Place

Lovely court location on 1/3 acre premium lot, this 3 BR/2 1/2 BA home has been completely updated throughout. 3 car garage. View this listing at www.240Alicantepl.com
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Dear Danville Community,

It is with deep regret that I must announce the closing of our Burke Williams Spa facility here in Danville. These are challenging economic times and I am afraid that this facility has fallen victim to those circumstances.

In better times your community would have been the perfect location for the upscale and abundant spa environment that has been our signature. We were greeted warmly and graciously by all who visited our spa and hopefully we succeeded in returning that experience.

A decision of this magnitude is fraught with many critical considerations. Our valued clients and our valued employees are among the most important. As for our clients, we will honor any purchased gift card or membership at any of our other locations and either may be transferred to someone else if you choose to do so. We remain a successful and vibrant company with nine locations; San Francisco and San Jose in northern California and seven in southern California. As for our employees, we are making every attempt to find suitable positions in our other locations in order to keep them employed during these challenging times.

We were very excited to have had the opportunity to be a part of your community and we regret that after a few short months we are forced to say good-bye. Thank you for welcoming us and under better circumstances one day we would love to return.

Sincerely,

Bill Armour, President
Burke Williams, Inc.



For more information on using your gift cards and memberships at another location, please contact Guest Services at 1-800-Beyond5.