Danville Weekly

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British teen travels coast to coast on solo bike ride

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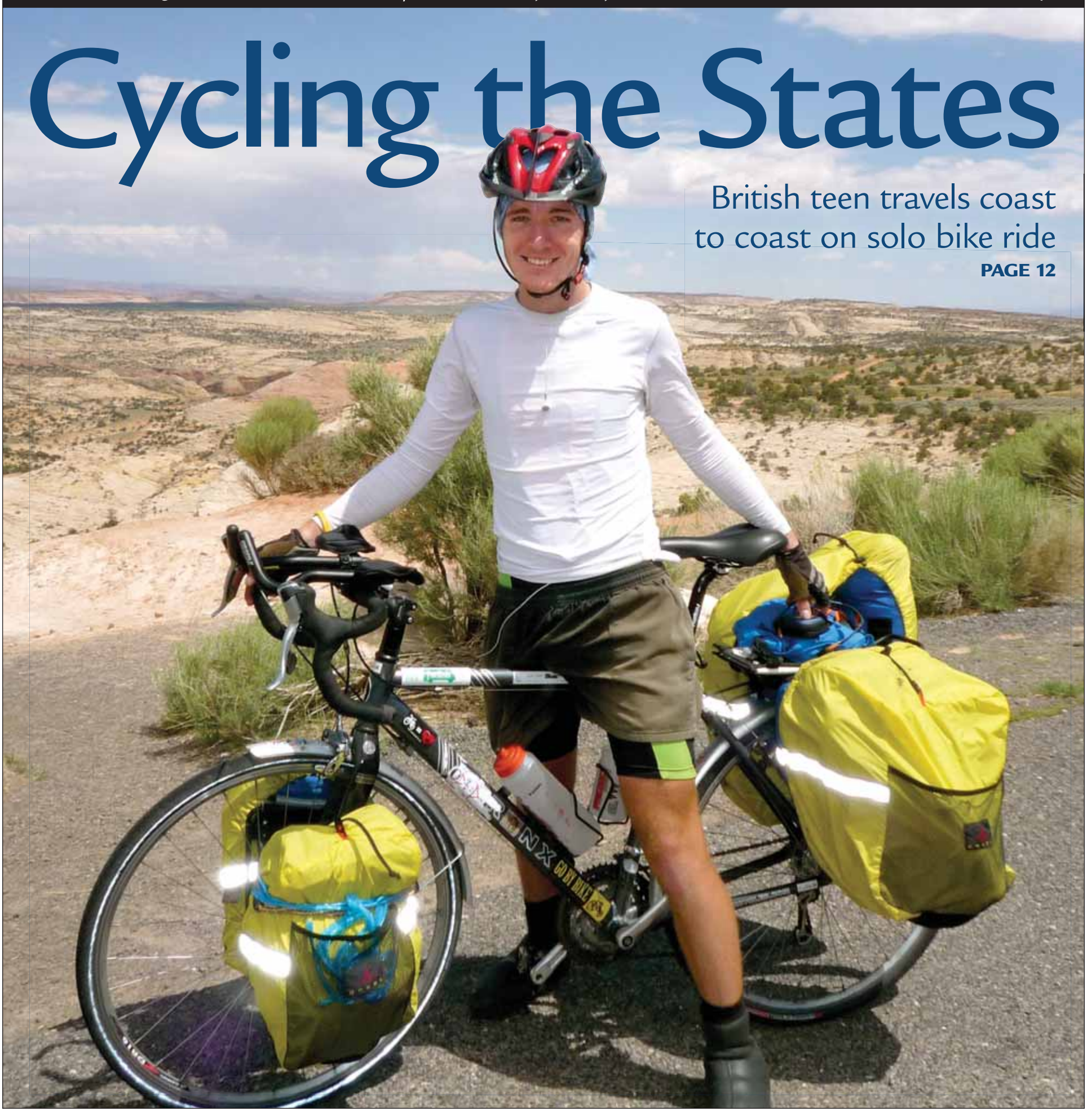

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Streetwise

ASKED AT BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB

How do you feel about the NFL reinstating Michael Vick after he served prison time for illegal dog fighting?

Gene Berkowitz
retired utility sales agency

He made a mistake and served his time. He's a talented player that deserves to be reinstated.

Jerry Nowicki
retired telephone company executive

He, basically, is a guy who is a typical professional athlete and thinks he's above the law. Michael learned a valuable lesson, and if he's honest about being contrite, then I think NFL commissioner Goodell did the right thing in reinstating him. Everybody makes mistakes, but ... we'll see.

Don Sturmer
retired civil engineer

I think it's ridiculous. The whole concept of someone getting out of prison after committing a felony and expecting favoritism seems that professional athletes deem themselves to be special people. Another example of celebrity envy. I don't think he should have been reinstated.

Darrell Yeakley
retired food service company

No, I don't think he should have been reinstated, at least at this time. Maybe after five years the NFL should address the issue again. What Michael did is illegal, and it sets an extremely bad example, especially for the younger set.

Jim Braden
retired food industry

As a dog owner, I felt at the time this happened it was reprehensible and that no punishment was too much for the cruelty involved. Hopefully, what he did will go a long way in preventing others from committing this crime. I feel his reinstatement is premature, and he will have a cross to bear should he potentially face fans every week.

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Greg Evans, 19, from the United Kingdom takes a break about 15 miles outside Fallon, Nev., as he rides his bicycle solo across the United States this summer. He ended up at the Golden Gate Bridge, then visited relatives in Danville. Photo courtesy Greg Evans.

Vol. V, Number 15

2009-2010 info
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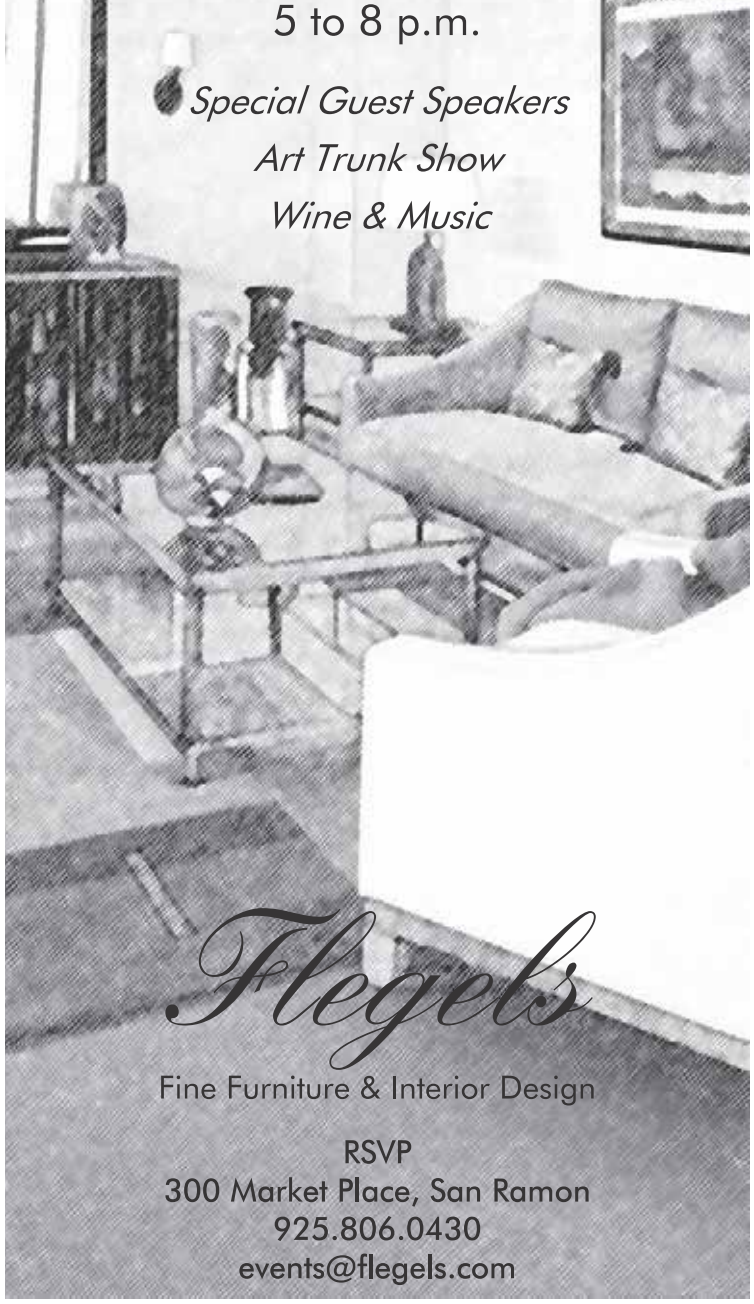

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Going from being friends to being distant relatives was just really intense."

James Irwin, 21, who learned in high school that he and his friend shared their great-great-great-grandmother. They are being trained as descendants of local Native American tribes. See story, PAGE **5**.

NEWS DIGEST

Laugh in remembrance of Stacey Hartmann

The show will go on, despite or perhaps because of the death of Danville resident Stacey Hartmann to ovarian cancer at the age of 47 in January. She and comedian Charleen Earley started an annual Comedy Night several years ago to let people laugh while raising funds for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

Earley will host the show at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15, in the Dean Lesher Theatre in Walnut Creek. Afterward the audience can mingle with the comics at a lounge nearby; details will be given at the show.

Tickets are $30 by calling 943-SHOW (943-7469). To learn more, visit www.comedybenefit.org.

Military honor for Sentinels founder Mike Conklin

Danville resident Mike Conklin, founder of the Sentinels of Freedom, is being inducted into the rolls of the Honorary Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment. He traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., for the induction that took place Aug. 4 in conjunction with Ranger Rendezvous events scheduled the first week in August.

"Your unparalleled service to and support of The Regiment is worthy of the honor you have been bestowed," wrote Col. Rich Clarke when informing Conklin of the honor.

Conklin is chairman and CEO of the Sentinels of Freedom, an organization based in San Ramon that helps those severely injured from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan return to civilian life and achieve their life goals.

Play golf, help injured soldiers

The Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation welcomes sponsors and attendees to its second annual Golf Classic and Gala being held at Crow Canyon Country Club on Monday, Aug. 10. Golf tickets that include dinner are still available at $275 per player; dinner only is $50.

At 4 p.m., the event will include a special wine pairings and cooking demonstration. The gala dinner will feature comedian Bob Sarlatte. Auction items include Tiger Woods autographed Masters Golf hat, Maui and Tahoe vacations, 49ers and Raiders paraphernalia. Auction items include Tiger Woods autographed Masters Golf hat, Maui and Tahoe vacations, 49ers and Raiders paraphernalia, golf foursome packages, Joe Montana and Jason Kidd autographed gear and local restaurant gifts.

Thus far, the Sentinels of Freedom Foundation has placed 51 veterans in communities across the country. Ten of the Sentinels will attend the gala. For tickets, call 989-0100.

Instructions for special election Sept. 1

Vote by Mail ballots for the Sept. 1 election were mailed beginning this week to registered voters within the 10th Congressional District living in Vote By Mail Ballot only precincts or who earlier applied to become Permanent Vote By Mail voters. Registered voters in either of these categories who have not received a ballot by Aug. 14 should call the Elections Office at 335-7800 to have a replacement ballot issued.

Those voting by mail are encouraged to vote and return the ballot upon receipt. The ballot must be back in the election office by Election Day, Sept. 1, regardless of the date postmarked.

Any voter who wishes to become a Permanent Vote By Mail Voter for future elections may call the Elections Office and an application will be mailed.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Contra Costa County Elections Department will begin to prepare and test the voting equipment to be used in the Sept. 1 election. Testing will continue until approximately Thursday, Aug. 20. Anyone who would like to observe this process may call 335-7800 for more information.

Corrections

In the July 31 Streetwise, the photos of Tom Bankert and Steve Whittingham were mixed up. Our apologies to the two gentlemen.

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School board looks at price hike for hot lunch

Increase considered to offset expected deficit

By Geoff Gillette

The cost of buying a hot lunch at schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District may be going up, as members of the School Board examine ways to trim a large deficit in the food service program last year.

At an Aug. 4 special meeting, the board heard a recommendation from district staff that they should approve a $.50 increase across the board in the price for a hot lunch. The increase would bump elementary school lunches from $3 to $3.50 per meal, and middle and high schoolers would jump from $3.50 to $4.

The initial suggestion of the increase comes from Chartwells, the food service provider for the school district. Chartwells was hired last year to replace Sodexho, ostensibly to provide better and more nutritious meals to district students.

However at the end of the first year with Chartwells, the district found itself with a $300,000 deficit in the food service fund. Figures from Chartwells indicate that if the meal prices stay as is, the district will see a $236,686 shortfall for the 2009-10 school year.

School Superintendent Steve Enoch said increasing prices for school lunches is not what he wants to do, but the district can't afford another year of losing money on the program.

"We're still trying to get a good picture of what's going on," he said. "We think it's necessary with the economy as it is and the economic hit that school districts are taking."

Enoch pointed to projections from Chartwells indicating that if the increase is approved, they could bring the program to "break-even" this year.

"I don't think our food service programs should be money makers," Enoch stated. "We like to see them at break even."

School board members were somewhat divided on the issue, with member Greg Marvel taking a firm stance against raising prices. "Although I understand the deficit situation our food services is in, I'm opposed to it because I felt the district made an error when they hired Chartwells," he said.

See **LUNCHES** on Page **6**

Restaurant accused of skimming tips

By Geoff Gillette

Operators of a Danville restaurant are facing a $425,000 civil suit amid allegations of a number of violations of employee rights. California Labor Commissioner Angela Broadstreet filed the civil action Tuesday against Kane Sushi, which operates restaurants in both Danville and Lafayette.

The suit alleges that the owners, Ni Ni Ichi Corp., illegally took tips from their wait staff, failed to pay overtime and attempted to coerce employees into falsifying timesheets.

California Department of Industrial Relations spokeswoman Erika Monterroza said the suit follows a six-month investigation into the restaurant. Monterroza said the investigation began Jan. 22, when the California Labor Commission's Bureau of Field Enforcement staged a "Planned Enforcement Activity" at the Danville restaurant.

"Anytime they go into a business, they will not only interview the employers but also the employees," she explained. Monterroza said information gleaned from that initial contact spurred a full investigation.

The investigation found several irregularities: Some employees were being paid as salaried employees, getting a flat rate regardless of the hours worked. Others were being paid $8 per hour, with no provision for overtime pay. Any hours worked beyond 40 in a week were paid "under the table" in cash at $8 an hour.

In addition, it was found that the owners were taking 4 percent of the tips that came through on credit cards, as well as a third of the cash tips brought in by the wait staff at the end of a shift.

"That is illegal," said Monterroza. "It is totally against labor law."

Another allegation lodged against the restaurant is that once the investigation began, the employer reportedly coerced workers to falsify their time cards for prior work shifts. Employees reported

See **TIPS** on Page **7**

Remains of 26 individuals uncovered at high school dig site

GEOFF GILLETTE

Vincent Medina (left) and James Irwin visit the San Ramon Valley High School dig site Monday to learn about the duties of the Most Likely Descendant, designated to look after remains of Native American tribe members.

Removal expected to last through end of August

By Geoff Gillette

The site of the new gymnasium at San Ramon Valley High School has become more of an archaeological dig than a construction site as technicians undergo the laborious process of uncovering and disinterring the 26 human remains found so far.

Flat blades have been added to the toothed maw of excavators, forcing them to carefully scrape layers of ground away as the search continues for more remains. Archaeological technicians have come from throughout the area to document the remains found. The bodies are found buried in small oval depressions, legs drawn up to the chest and arms folded into their sides.

Years of time in the ground have left little remaining but bones, but experts say this will be enough to tell at least some of the tale.

"This is called a 'flexed position' that they're buried in," said Andrew Galvan. Galvan, the curator of

See **REMOVAL** on Page **8**

Training 'Most Likely Descendants' for the future

By Geoff Gillette

Taking part in the excavation and relocation of the dozens of Bay Miwok remains found at San Ramon Valley High School is an exercise in archaeology and local history. But for some it's a lesson from their shared cultural heritage and a step in the process to being a part of it.

Andrew Galvan has spent decades serving as a spokesman for local Native American tribes, as well as the designated Most Likely Descendant, a job in which he assists in the preservation and relocation of Native American remains.

Now he has begun the process of passing on to others the history he learned from his ancestors. Joining Galvan at the dig site at the high school were his great-nephew James Irwin and Vincent Medina, a cousin.

"The two of them I'm hoping are the next generation. Not just in the field with the skeletal remains, but the knowledge I can share. The traditional knowl-

See **DESCENDANTS** on Page **8**

County reports first human West Nile case

By Geoff Gillette

Health officials in Contra Costa County have reported the first case of a human infected with the West Nile Virus. Susan Farley, a public health nurse in the county's communicable disease program, said the case was first reported in late July.

The victim, listed as being from central Contra Costa County, first became ill in Mid-July but was not diagnosed until two weeks later. Farley said the woman is recovering from the potentially fatal virus.

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Farley said that 80 percent of the time the person bitten suffers no ill effects. The other 20 percent suffer "West Nile Fever," which can include high fever, chills, headache, fatigue and vomiting.

In rare cases, fewer than 1 percent of those who develop West Nile Fever will have a much more severe reaction.

"It develops into a central nervous system disease, like meningitis or encephalitis," Farley stated.

Those affected will experience confusion, dizziness, loss of motor control and other neurological effects. Those most at risk of developing the more serious version of West Nile tend to be older or have a pre-existing condition of hypertension.

There is no vaccine or medicine for West Nile. Farley said the main treatment is "supportive care," taking medication to keep fevers down, staying hydrated and similar courses of action. In the extreme cases, hospitalization is required.

The number of cases of West Nile are down so far this season. The California West Nile Virus Web site said so far this year there are only five human cases of the virus in California, whereas last year at this time there were 28 in the state.

Officials with the health department as well as the County Mosquito and Vector Control District are continuing to monitor the situation and request that any dead birds found be reported to a special hotline at (877) 968-2473. ■

LUNCHES

Continued from Page 5

Marvel stated that he felt the fiscal projections made by Chartwells when they bid for the district's contract were off by as much as $500,000. Chartwells, he said, contracted to do the same job as Sodexho.

"We never had these kinds of deficits with Sodexho," he offered. "The bottom line is we were given a bill of goods as a board."

Board member Paul Gardner offered a counterpoint, saying that the reason Sodexho was replaced was that the district had received complaints about the quality and nutritional value of the food being served. "If Chartwells improved the taste and nutrition of the food and it cost more, I can work with that."

Board member Ken Mintz pointed out that the increase would leave the School District as one of the most expensive lunch programs in the area.

"I will reluctantly vote for the increase. I will wait and see if the parents walk away from the program," he said.

If the increase is approved, SRVUSD's lunch prices will be the fourth highest in the area, behind Moraga, Palo Alto and Orinda.

Board member Rachel Hurd offered a different perspective on the expectations placed on the lunch programs and what it can do. "School lunch is one of those things where you're never going to make everyone happy," she stated. Complaints range from the poor nutritional value to students only being allowed one piece of pizza.

Marvel argued that given the state of the economy, raising prices is unfair to district parents. "This is the worst time to ask parents to shell out more money," he maintained.

Before a vote could be taken, the discussion shifted to holding off on a decision in order to give Assistant Superintendent of Finance Gary Black time to examine the numbers and determine if the increase is in fact what is needed to avoid a deficit.

School Board President Bill Clarkson asked if there was any reason to hold off on a decision.

Black said the word they've had from Chartwells is that waiting and changing the price structure once the school year has started could result in a falloff of sales.

Clarkson was unconvinced. "It's their recommendation, but we take the hit if they're wrong," he said.

After further discussion, the board voted to table the issue until it could get a more thorough examination of the numbers. It is expected to come up for discussion and a possible vote at the Aug. 18 meeting.

Superintendent Enoch said there are certainly questions and concerns around the food service program and there are things that need to be addressed if the district is to continue doing business with Chartwells.

"It's our expectation that either we turn this around this year or we rethink our food service," he stated.

Enoch gave a thumbnail sketch of the laundry list of concerns the district has with its provider. These included issues with management, equipment, organization and service. ■

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Jane Lewis of the Quilter's Inn shows a quilt made in a traditional pattern but with modern fabrics on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

New exhibit highlights fun with fabrics

Museum of the San Ramon Valley displaying quilts through Sept. 27

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Don't just look at the quilts on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley by yourself. Let a docent show you around so you can appreciate what you are seeing.

"Quilts! Tradition with a Twist" is the current exhibit showing many different artistic styles.

"Most quilters like to try a variety," said Jane Lewis, owner of the Quilter's Inn in Danville, which collaborated in the exhibit. She noted that it coincides with a biannual event called Quilting in the Garden in Livermore that draws quilting fans from far and wide.

"A traditional pattern made with different fabrics is my favorite," she added.

The exhibit shows pictorial quilts, styles from the Civil War area and some with photos printed on fabric and sewn in. One quilt has 48 squares with state birds embroidered by a woman who came to the United States from the Philippines in 1945; her daughter assembled them into the quilt. One quilt has an Oakland A's theme, while another bright quilt is all amphibians.

Six quilts were sewn round-robin style, with one person creating the center portion and then passing it on to another quilter to add to it. "They have an autumn theme," said Lewis, noting the cute little ghosts, goblins, witches and jack-o-lanterns.

The quilts will be on display through Sept. 27, and each Saturday volunteers from the Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild will be on hand to demonstrate a variety of skills. Fun activities include making yo-yo fabric circles that will be joined in a chain and used to decorate a Museum tree at Christmas.

Museum visitors are also given the opportunity to identify the locations of a variety of quilts that have been placed in businesses around town. Each entry slip that correctly lists the locations will be placed in a drawing at the end of the exhibit with the winner receiving a quilt donated by the Quilter's Inn.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is located at 205 Railroad Ave. in Danville. Admission is $5 per family; $3 for adults; $1 for children. Museum members are free. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsrv.org for more information. ■

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GEOFF GILLETTE

Contra Costa Sheriff's Department Motorcycle Deputy Herman Rellar shows off his bike to John Sanders, a visitor to Danville from Australia, while Police Volunteer Ken Lucash looks on at a National Night Out party. Rellar claims to be, at 77, the oldest motorcycle deputy in America.

Community gathers for National Night Out

By Geoff Gillette

Hundreds of residents across Danville enjoyed a perfect summer night outdoors together on Tuesday, getting to know their neighbors and their local police force as part of the 26th annual National Night Out.

The event offers residents a chance to come together as a neighborhood and get to know one another. Not only is it good community spirit, but it also allows neighbors to have a better sense for what is happening on their blocks and knowing when something is out of place.

Resident Bob Riley has been getting out and meeting his neighbors in the Shadow Hills subdivision for over a decade.

"This is my street's 15th year participating. I heard about Oakland's participation years ago and thought, 'Although we don't have the violent crime problems of other areas, I could use the National Night Out as an excuse to meet my neighbors.'"

He said that the annual event allows some fun for everyone. "Everyone meets at the top of the court to chat, while the kids ride their bikes and play. Just normal, neighborly stuff, but we include everyone on the whole block."

Riley works not only for his block party but helps organize several throughout the neighborhood. A Safeway employee, he convinced his employer to donate ice cream to the event, which he delivered to the eight other block party locations.

"Some places do the big public gathering, where people just show up for the free food and then leave. Doing it as block parties is more productive. This way people actually talk and get to know one another," he said.

They also get a chance to know their local law enforcement. Volunteers and officers from both the Danville Police Department and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department fanned out and stopped at dozens of block parties all through the town.

Residents had the chance to talk to the officers and discuss their concerns, while the officers and volunteers took the opportunity to talk about neighborhood safety as well as passing out glow necklaces to the area children. ■

County wants input for hazard mitigation plan

By Geoff Gillette

Officials from the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services will be in San Ramon next week to talk to area residents about a countywide plan designed to deal with potential natural disasters.

"We're going to have earthquake maps so the public can look at the map and see where their home is in proximity to fault lines. Also where they are in proximity to flood zones," said Emergency Planning Coordinator Susan Roseberry.

"We're in the process of updating our current mitigation plan so we're looking at strategies for strengthening the infrastructure."

Roseberry said the countywide effort is designed to provide residents with an awareness of the potential hazards in the area and also to garner input on how the county can best be prepared.

"We want to get the public aware of the hazards that surround them here in the county and provide them with methods of strengthening their homes and mitigating some of these hazards," she stated.

The county, 13 cities and 27 special purpose districts are working with a consultant to either create a new mitigation plan or update their current one.

Four public meetings have been set up around the county. Danville residents are encouraged to attend the Aug. 11 meeting in the San Ramon Community Center from 6-9 p.m.

Funding for the plan comes from a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant is designed to help the county develop a multi-hazard mitigation plan.

The plan will enable the county and the cities to take steps to help reduce or eliminate long-term risks to life, property and the environment.

Contra Costa County currently has a plan, but in order to get money from FEMA, the plan must be updated and the cities and the state must have their own mitigation plans as well. ■

TIPS

Continued from Page 5

that the owners threatened that they would be fired or receive reduced shifts if they cooperated with the investigation.

Eight complaints have since been filed of retaliation against employees of the company, said Monterroza. Those claims are currently being processed and will be handled separately from the other violations already reported.

As a result of the investigation, the restaurants were cited for numerous violations and fined more than $500,000. The owners have appealed the citations and a hearing is commencing.

Monterroza said the civil action was filed Tuesday in Contra Costa County Superior Court. "We normally have 60 days to serve defendants," she explained. "Under fast-track rules the case is either resolved or the date is set within 12-18 months."

Calls to both the Lafayette and Danville restaurants were unable to locate any of the owners or defendants in the case. ■

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REMOVAL

Continued from Page 5

Mission Dolores, is a Native American who can trace his roots back to before the European colonization.

Galvan was named by the Native American Heritage Commission as the Most Likely Descendant, which puts him in charge of removing the remains and transporting them to the Ohlones Indian Cemetery in Fremont.

"There is a lot you can tell from the remains," he said. "By the size you can tell if it was an adult; you can tell the sex a couple of different ways."

One way scientists can determine gender is through the sciatic notch. Galvan said that because the notch will expand slightly during childbirth, a wider notch generally suggests a female while a narrower notch means a male. Another method would be using the brow ridge. Males had a greater protuberance in their brow ridge.

Technician Joel Garcia, a masters student at San Francisco State, marked off a grid surrounding one burial site in order to map out the remains.

"What we're doing to mitigate the site is to reconstruct it on paper," he explained. "It gives us a record of how the remains were situated within the site." Garcia said once the record was complete they would begin the process of taking the remains out of the site for transportation to a laboratory.

Testing is expected to determine how old the remains are, but Galvan said he would estimate they are somewhere between 250 and 2,000 years old. He added that because they have found some remains as deep as 8 feet below the ground and some as shallow as 3 feet that there could be a wide range in the timeframe the individuals were buried. Workers will examine artifacts found near the remains as a rough means of estimating their ages.

"The depth certainly is no sure indicator, but it suggests that those buried deeper may be from years earlier than those buried more shallowly," he stated.

Galvan, who has served as Descendant on numerous occasions during the past three decades, said he is expecting that they will find still another 20 or more individual remains over the course of examining the area.

Several archaeological sites surround the high school location. Galvan said Tatcan was a Bay Miwok village located near the high school, and the workers may have uncovered a mortuary complex.

"Think about the little church on the hillside with the fenced in cemetery in back," he posed. "People did that because they wanted to be able to bury their loved ones close by."

Once the remains have all been exposed, they will be carefully removed to an undisclosed location where they will be examined and prepared for re-burial in the Ohlones Indian Cemetery in Fremont.

In the meantime, work is proceeding on the new gymnasium at the high school, albeit more slowly. The major foundation work is expected to be completed by early next week. Galvan said that if they have found no further remains when the excavation for the foundation has reached its maximum depth they will close their investigation.

School District spokesman Terry Koehne said the project is continuing. "We're still allowed to work in certain areas, areas where we have not yet found any remains," he said.

At this point Koehne said it is unknown if the discovery of the remains will delay the conclusion of the gym project or whether it will add to the nearly $10 million price tag of the construction.

Koehne said they do know that because the remains were found on district property, it is up to them to pay the costs associated with the removal process, an amount estimated at $25,000.

Both Galvan and school district officials remind residents that the site is closed to the public both as a sign of respect for the dead and for public safety. Individuals are not allowed on the dig site.

Those looking for more information on the Bay Miwok tribe and their history in the San Ramon Valley can visit the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. An exhibit on the Bay Miwok will run from October-November. ■

DESCENDANTS

Continued from Page 5

edge, all the things I've learned over the years," Galvan said.

Both young men are studying anthropology, Irwin, 21, at the University of Nevada Reno, and Medina, 22, at Berkeley City College. Irwin began studying his heritage early, as he would often go to dig sites with "Uncle Andy" and his mother, Desiree Irwin, who worked as a field tech for her uncle.

Medina said that while he did not have the same intensive background training as Irwin, the desire to learn about their ancestry grew in him through high school. "I've always known this part of my identity but it made me wonder more about it, so I went and talked to Andy," he recounted.

Irwin and Medina were friends at Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo and midway through they learned that they were related, sharing a common great-great-great-grandmother. Irwin said that having that knowledge of their history gives him a greater sense of place.

"It's interesting knowing that they can trace our family history back to the 1700s, knowing that I come from something back that far," he said. "Going from being friends to being distant relatives was just really intense."

Galvan said he has taken the two young men under his wing, apprenticing them in the heritage and history of their people and the duties they have to their people, both living and dead.

"My goal is to teach them. Teach them the stories I've been told. Pass on the knowledge I have to the next generation so it doesn't get lost when I die," Galvan said. "That's how the flame stays alive for us." ■

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DIABLO VIEWS

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Needed: Backpacks to start the school year off right

When did the backpack become de rigueur for school children? Sometime between my school days and those of my children. I had an assortment of books and a Peachy Folder with pockets to hold my pens and miscellany—although not very well.

Backpacks are a sturdy and convenient way to hold books, papers, pencils, erasers and everything else (hairbrush, food, phone?) needed for a day at school. They can get awfully heavy but they are as necessary for school children today as, oh, I don't know, as blackboards. I mean whiteboards. Or do I mean power point presentations?

Anyway I received some not very good news last week from Danville resident Christa Brazier, who volunteers her time to drive around seniors. She called to ask me to spread the word about an alarming situation she discovered at Monument Crisis Center, where she delivered bags of zucchini from her garden. The volunteers told her that every year they provide donated backpacks for children whose families can't afford them but this year, with the first day of school right around the corner, they only have one backpack.

Christa, a woman of action who can't say no to any request for help, is hoping that people with children getting new backpacks will collect the old ones and donate them to the Crisis Center, at 2350 Monument Blvd. in Concord, between Oak Grove Road and Detroit Avenue. Christa even offered to deliver the backpacks to Concord herself; e-mail her at jbrazier003@sbcglobal.net.

I contacted Monument Crisis Center to get some specifics. They were thrilled to hear from someone who can help to get out the word. Executive Director Sandra L. Scherer explained that they do have more than one backpack but still need hundreds.

"We have had one big donation of 50 backpacks from two generous women who also just sent a group of our kids to their first ever A's game," she e-mailed me. (The A's won and the kids thought it was because they were there. Well, who's to say it wasn't?) That first donation was placed in a storage area so apparently the volunteers who talked to Christa thought there was only one instead of 51.

Also Scherer reported Monday morning that the Crisis Center received 40 backpacks late Friday afternoon from a Girl Scout working toward her Gold Award, and other groups are working to provide backpacks, including National Charity League and the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

However, the Crisis Center needs 500 backpacks by mid-August and the first distribution is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21. "Last year we did over 350 and needed many, many more," said Scherer. "So I would say we right now have 90 backpacks filled with beautiful and needed school supplies and need 400 more." People can donate the supplies or the backpacks. Or they can donate both and bring the backpacks to the center already filled and ready to go, just labeling them for the appropriate age.

"We need them from K-12th grade and there is no better feeling than actually preparing a child or a teen for their first day of school," Scherer added. "It gives them a wonderful chance to feel good about themselves and start the year off right—just like all of us have been able to do."

She sympathizes that these are tough times for a lot of people, not just those normally helped by her organization. But she hopes that when those who can afford it are shopping for their own children they can outfit another child of the same age and contribute it. The Monument Crisis Center takes donations from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until 6 p.m. Tuesday. Be sure to tell them you're from the Danville area.

Friday morning I also received an e-mail from Madi and Kinsey Mascali, ages 12 and 9, who have been collecting and stuffing backpacks for the last few years in their Danville driveway under the name Packs with Love to give to school children in Richmond. Last year they collected and assembled 240 backpacks but this year they set a goal of 400 backpacks. So far they are short by 100.

"We have collected the money to buy all the new school supplies but need more gently-used backpacks," they e-mailed everyone on their list. "If all of you can ask kids on your sports teams, from your class, church or in your neighborhood if they have any used backpacks that would really help. We can pick it up from your porch anytime!!!!!"

They said they are delivering 30 full packs to Open Arms in Mexico this week and will give the rest to Shelters Inc., Teen Challenge and the Richmond Schools. They will be working to organize and stuff the backpacks from 9-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 19, if anyone wants to join in the fun. Contact them at packswithlove@yahoo.com.

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

Perspective

EDITORIALS, LETTERS, OPINIONS ABOUT ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Danville Weekly

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PUBLISHER
Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor
Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 229

Staff Reporter
Geoff Gillette, Ext. 234

Editorial Assistant
Joe Hantos, Ext. 221

Contributors
Susan Astbury
John A. Barry
Don Colman
Beverly Lane
Jacqui Love Marshall
Chris Scott
Chuck Herrmann
Stan Wharton

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director
Rick Nobles, Ext. 117

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GUEST OPINION

By Seth Adams

Foreign speculator proposes to break the urban limit line in Tassajara Valley

The Weekly's recent "New Farm" article about proposed development in the Tassajara Valley came off as a Tom Koch puff piece. The proposal is to develop 771 acres—more than a square mile—in the Tassajara Valley into 186 units, mostly mansions, under the guise of expanding agriculture. The vineyards and olives that would be planted are really just an attempt to act as though this urban project would be agricultural.

Koch is a paid consultant who represents developers, in this case FT Land LLC. In reality, the project should be called the Koch-Kawar project after its owner, Samir Kawar, a Jordanian land speculator whose brother was convicted of illegal campaign contributions in the San Ramon Valley.

"New Farm" is an incredibly controversial project. It would bust the county Urban Limit Line, open huge areas outside of the line to speculation and development, and quite possibly bar whatever jurisdictions are involved from receiving Measure J transportation sales tax "return to source" funds.

Save Mount Diablo, Greenbelt Alliance, the Sierra Club and many others have been opposing Koch's plans for the Tassajara Valley for over 20 years.

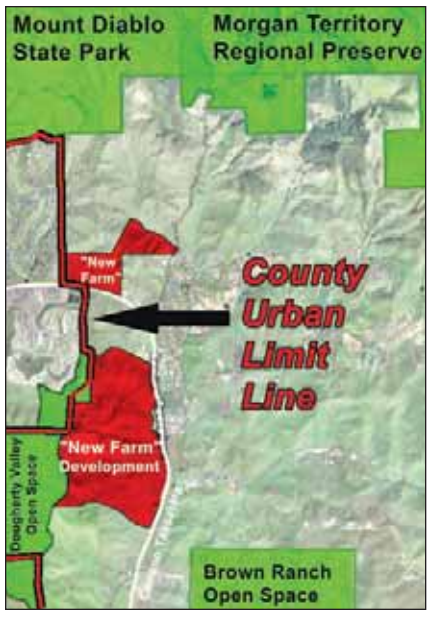
The project would dump huge amounts of traffic on Camino Tassajara, affect endangered species and views of the scenic Tassajara hills, and require massive urban infrastructure such as the extension of water lines and sewer, which would further encourage growth—although the voters have repeatedly voted to protect the Tassajara Valley and hundreds of residents have attended public hearings to oppose development there.

This project is almost identical to the plan Koch-Kawar proposed two years ago to the County, to which we responded, at which point they switched to San Ramon, where we and the Town of Danville responded again, and now they're back at the County. It was an important issue in the recent Assembly race, and the San Ramon Valley County Supervisorial seat has turned over four times in part based on Tassajara development issues.

What Koch-Kawar didn't mention in the article is that they got the go ahead to do a General Plan Amendment Study—which doesn't suggest support at all—but then they failed to pay for the required planning work and Environmental Impact Report until now—so the County is just getting started.

It would have been useful to get a response from a planner—like Danville's, or the County's. Our discussions with County officials were that they didn't see any way in which the planning department could recommend this project. The process will be extremely political.

Koch-Kawar suggest that they have the right to do this project—they don't.



TROY BRISTOL, SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

The New Farm development is outside of the County Urban Limit Line, which is meant to stop development and block urban services such as water and sewer in order to preserve rural agriculture and open space while avoiding urban impacts.

Kawar has a couple of parcels, which gives him the right to build a couple of houses. What Koch-Kawar have proposed is creation of an entirely new zoning district and a massive subdivision, both of which are extremely speculative.

Koch-Kawar make the imaginative argument that, since the minimum parcel size on their land is 5 acres, they can simply take their full acreage, divide by 5, add density bonuses for some affordable housing for "farm workers" and build 186 units.

But just because there's a 5-acre minimum parcel size doesn't mean the number of units is simple division. Subdivision is entirely speculative and is affected by a wide variety of constraints such as the Urban Limit Line, landslides and steep hills, endangered species, etc. County policy discourages major subdivisions (five or more units) outside of the Urban Limit Line, or extension of urban services.

Koch-Kawar can't build this project without extending urban infrastructure into the Tassajara Valley—water, sewer, etc.—which the Urban Limit Line is supposed to block.

This project is a foreign investor's dream to get the horse's nose under the tent—the Urban Limit Line. If Koch-Kawar can bust the Urban Limit Line here, the entire Tassajara Valley and much more will be threatened.

Contra Costa County Supervisors should not create a brand new, tailor-made zoning district just to satisfy a developer who makes lots of campaign contributions. They should continue to defend the County Urban Limit Line.

Seth Adams is the Director of Land Programs for Save Mount Diablo. Founded in 1971, Save Mount Diablo has been instrumental in increasing protected open space on and around the mountain from 6,788 acres to almost 100,000 acres. SMD acquires land, responds to development projects, builds trails and restores wildlife habitat, and educates the public about threats to the mountain.

EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Neighbor to neighbor is a good thing

As a society we are drawing further and further apart. Blame technology and the isolation that it brings. Or blame the increasing paranoia inculcated in the U.S. since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or just the rising tide of violence that's been seen over the past two decades.

Whatever the reason, the result is the same. People are pulling away from each other, retreating behind a wall of text messages, e-mails and instant messaging. Why go next door and talk to your neighbor when you can sit at your computer and communicate electronically? That could suck precious seconds away from your day.

That's why events such as National Night Out, held across the country this week, are invaluable in reminding us that we aren't just people living in houses. We're living in neighborhoods. In the days before television, DVD's, computers, Facebook and Twitter, real social networking took place on front porches and stoops across America.

Neighbors would sit together as the sun went down and talk. The topic didn't matter and it wasn't necessary to agree. By getting to know the people around you, a bond would form. And when you went to sleep at night, it was with the certain knowledge that you weren't alone.

National Night Out reminds us of those times, of that mentality that we're all in this together. On this night each year, people get together in groups all throughout the community and get to know one another. Neighborhood Watch groups form.

Also, volunteers and officers from the local police department come out and engage with residents. In that dialogue the officers cease to be faceless autocratic authority figures and become fellow humans who have chosen a career putting your safety above their own.

Incorporation votes, population counts and census data may define a town or an area, but it's the spirit of its populace and their willingness to be a part of the greater whole that defines a community. It comes down to putting a face and a name with that house down the street and knowing the people inside it—and knowing that you are there for each other if either of you needs help.

Neighborhood block parties can be planned for any time, not just on National Night Out. It is worthwhile to try some real social networking and get to know each other. Because now more than at any time in recent U.S. history do we as a people need to know we are not alone.

Code of ethics

The Danville Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN

Faulty registration leads to drug arrest

A man is facing drug charges, after expired registration tags led to a traffic stop by police. Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said the arrest occurred July 31 on Camino Ramon near Paraiso Drive.

Williams said that around 11 a.m. Officer Paul Murphy was on patrol when he noticed that the registration stickers on a blue Toyota van in front of him were expired so he initiated a traffic stop. Murphy approached the driver of the vehicle, identified as Manuel Manibusan, 41, of Vallejo and asked him about the faulty registration.

Manibusan explained that they were just driving the vehicle to pick up some furniture. When the officer asked him for a driver's license, Manibusan admitted that it was suspended. A check on the driver confirmed the suspension as well as the fact that Manibusan was on probation.

Manibusan was asked to exit the car and while Murphy spoke to him he noticed signs that the Vallejo man could be under the influence of drugs. He said Manibusan kept putting his hands in his pockets despite repeated warnings to keep his hands out. He also exhibited a dry white buildup at the corners of his mouth. A search of the man turned up a small propane torch commonly used in smoking methamphetamines, according to reports.

Manibusan initially denied using the drugs in the past several months, but on questioning from the officer admitted that he had smoked meth the previous evening, said police. Murphy conducted a field drug evaluation and determined that Manibusan was under the influence of a central nervous system stimulant. He was arrested on charges of DUI and being under the influence of a controlled substance and transported to the Martinez Detention Center.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, July 26

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 1:13 p.m.
- Vandalism on Glen Valley Circle at 1:46 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 2:07 p.m.
- Weapon brandishing on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 4:29 p.m.

Monday, July 27

- Vandalism on Stone Valley Rd. at 7:17 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Mattos Ct. at 8:05 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Vista Del Diablo at 11:42 a.m.
- Grand theft on Princeton Lane at 2:23 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Timberline Ct. at 5:07 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on St. Francis Dr. at 11:31 a.m.
- Petty theft on Kelley Lane at 1:47 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Diablo Rd. and McCauley Rd. at 7:21 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cedar Lane Ct. at 2:09 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Sycamore Hill Ct. at 7:24 p.m.
- Trespassing on Holbrook Dr. at 11:21 p.m.

Thursday, July 30

- Petty theft, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 1:23 p.m.
- Call for service, arrest, on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 2:14 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Vista Del Diablo at 2:32 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Mission Place at 5:56 p.m.

Friday, July 31

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and San Thomas Way at 10:58 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Fostoria Way at 12:29 p.m.
- Grand theft on Adagio Dr. at 2:49 p.m.
- Vandalism on Fostoria Way at 3:31 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on Front St. at 9:47 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 1

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on northbound I-680 and Stone Valley Rd. at 1:57 a.m.
- Grand theft on Lehigh Valley Circle at 9:37 a.m.
- Vandalism on Sabina Ct. at 10:10 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:07 a.m.
- Fight disturbance on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 9:18 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Herbert Acorn

Joseph Herbert Acorn, a resident of Danville, died at the age of 78.

He met his wife, Marylou, when they were juniors at Fairfax High School in Los Angeles where he was student body president in their senior year. Both graduated from Pomona College in Claremont. He attended USC in Los Angeles, majoring in religion, and served as a student pastor at Methodist churches in Cucamonga and South Pasadena. He served as minister of youth at Glendale Congregational Church and Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. He also received a teaching credential from UC Berkeley and taught world history, psychology and American literature for 27 years at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill. Before retiring he served as president of the Mount Diablo Education Association. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, reading, playing bridge with his SIRs friends, and attending his grandson's baseball games. He has been an active member of Danville Congregational Church for 33 years where he served as Sunday school teacher, deacon and moderator.

He was preceded in death by his son David. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marylou; son Jeffrey; daughter Janet Matulovich, her husband Frank and their two sons. Friends are invited to a memorial service at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, at 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15. Donations may be made to Danville Congregational Church or Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave, Pleasant Hill 94523.

Angela Helen Bentkowski

Angela Helen Bentkowski, a resident of Danville, died July 2 at the age of 66.

She was born Dec. 7, 1942, in Lithuania and came with her family to the United States in 1952 after the events of WWII displaced them from their beloved homeland. She attended St. Maria High School in Chicago and after moving to California received her bachelor of science in nursing from Fresno State University. She worked at John Muir Medical Center early in her nursing career. She also worked at State Farm Insurance Co. using her medical and sales background for training its claims group. She enjoyed the varied activities in her community, whether it was golf with her husband and friends or a spirited game of bridge with the ladies or Mah Jongg with her bag of quarters in hand. She was proud of her Lithuanian heritage and her many loving and supportive Lithuanian friends and family.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Matt; son Mark of Fresno by a previous marriage to Dr. Rimvydas Plenys; her older brother Peter and wife Vita of Chicago; and sister-in-law Fran Bentkowski of Bethlehem, Pa.

Her interment took place alongside her parents at St. Casimir Lithuanian Cemetery in Chicago on July 10. A Celebration of Life for friends and family will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Lois Helen Allen

Lois "Lolo" Helen Allen, a resident of Danville, died July 19 at the age of 81.

She was born March 19, 1928, in Montana with her beloved sister June and raised in Alameda. She met her husband Bill on a blind date New Year's Eve 1948; they were married the following Oct. 24. They had two children, John and Wendy. Their first home was in San Lorenzo and in 1978 they moved to Danville. Her Card Club friends were a treasured gift in her life; they shared wonderful times at the Peter's cabin, Russian River, Twain Harte and she always looked forward to the annual Christmas party and family vacations to Lake Tahoe. She loved to cook, shop, read, work in the garden, do crossword puzzles and care for her little dog Dolly, but her family is what she treasured the most and she was a great-grandma of four.

Donations may be made to Hospice of The East Bay, Bruns House, 3470 Buskirk Ave, Pleasant Hill 94523, or the George Mark Children's House, 2121 George Mark Lane, San Leandro 94578.

Selma E. Brockman

Selma E. Brockman, a resident of Danville, died July 19 at the age of 87.

She was born Aug. 28, 1921. A native of the Bay Area and a longtime resident of Danville, she was a 1940 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School. She enjoyed music, art, crafts, gardening and visiting with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband John and is survived by her two daughters, Jane Brockman of Santa Monica and Bette Brockman of Danville.

Leo Hartford

Leo Hartford, a resident of Danville, died July 28 at the age of 41.

He was born June 27, 1968, to parents Sophia and Fred Hartford. He graduated from Novato High School in 1987 where he starred in football and lacrosse. He played lacrosse at Sonoma State University and graduated with a degree in kinesiology. He was inducted into the Marin County Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2008 for his success and contributions to the sport he so loved, an accomplishment of which he was especially proud. He launched Leo Hartford and Associates in 1993, which grew into the largest medical device sales business in the area. He was the No. 1 sales associate for Zimmer Holdings and was a 10- time President Award recipient. He recently was part owner of Vinoteca in Danville. He was involved with the Special Olympics, the Novato High and Sonoma State lacrosse programs, and Danville youth football and lacrosse programs.

He was preceded in death by his father Fred. He is survived by his three children, Morgan, 12; Sophie, 9; and Kai, 10 months; his mother, Sophia; brother, Patrick of Petaluma; and former wife, Lauren Hartford of Danville.

A vigil was scheduled for Aug. 4 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church with a Celebration of his Life the next day. In lieu of flowers the family requested donations in his name to the Leo Hartford Children's Memorial Fund, c/o Chase Bank, Danville Financial Center, 661 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville CA 94526.

Ronald David Nuti

Ronald David Nuti, a resident of Danville, died July 23 at the age of 64.

He was born May 6, 1945, in Chicago. He worked for RBS WorldPay as a National Account Executive. He worked for Dominick's Finer Foods in the Chicago area for 26 years and Lucky Stores in California and was highly respected in the grocery industry for over 45 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Nuti; and an infant baby daughter, Jennifer Nuti. He is survived by his mother, Margaret Nuti; his wife, Cathy, of Danville; and his four children, twins Kim Lefebvre and Jim Angie, daughter Heather Lombardo Domenic and son David Kerrin; and five-grandchildren.

A Celebration of his Life was held at St. Isidore Catholic Church on July 30. Memorials may be made to Sentinels of Freedom, www.sentinelsoffreedom.org.

Peggy Goerl

Peggy Goerl, a resident of Alamo, died July 24 at the age of 88.

She was born April 8, 1921, the first of eight children to J. Howard and Helen Schmelzer in Saginaw, Mich. After graduating high school, she attended Michigan State University. After college, she moved to Southern California and worked as an executive secretary at a large engineering firm. She met John Goerl on a blind date while golfing with another couple. They married in 1949 and later moved to Northern California. Her many interests included reading, gardening, sewing, knitting, baking, interior and fashion design, and Asian art.

She is survived by her loving husband, John; her two daughters, Lyn and Vicki; her three-grandchildren; one-great-granddaughter; and brothers, Phil and Nick Schmelzer.

A memorial mass was held Aug. 1 at St. Isidore Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Hospice of the East Bay/Bruns House, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523.

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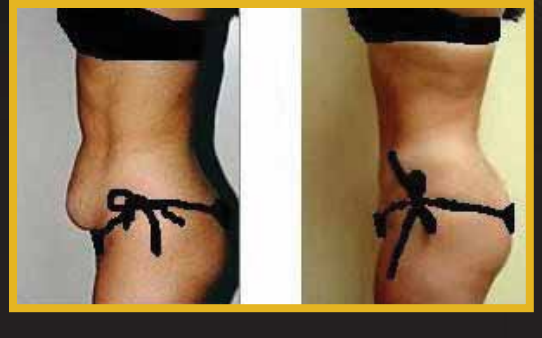

BEFORE AFTER

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Removes Fat — breaks up unwanted fat, removes it and reshapes your body

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- Hips (saddle bags)
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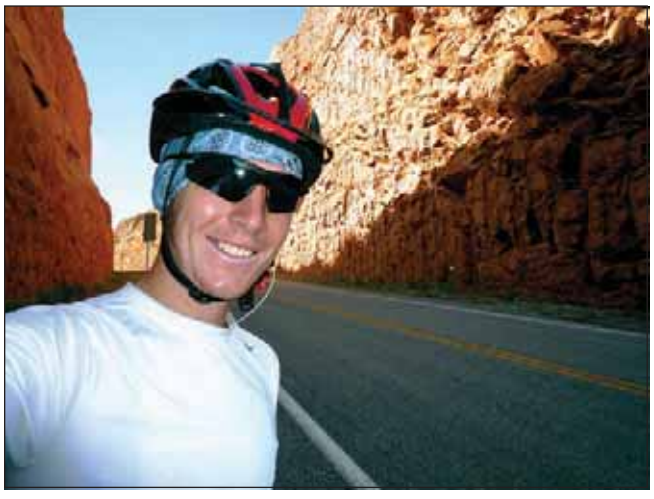
Greg Evans, 18, of Horsham, U.K., undertook the 3,784-mile journey from the East Coast of the United States to the West Coast solo and unassisted. His travels took him from the green hills of the Appalachians...

through the gently rolling plains states...



up the steep passes of the Colorado Rockies...

and across the hot, dry salt flats of Nevada as he worked his way to California and the end of his adventure.

CYCLING T

By Geoff Gillette

A tradition in the United Kingdom is for teenagers who've just finished high school to take off one year and work or travel before starting college. It's called a "Gap Year," and many British teens use that time to get out and see the world, riding in planes, trains and automobiles.

Greg Evans, 19, decided seeing the world from a comfy chair in a moving vehicle was a bit too easy. Late in his senior year of high school he decided that he'd spend his gap year touring the United States—by bicycle.

Over the course of 70 days, the Horsham, U.K., teenager rode his bike from Yorktown, Va., all the way to the Golden Gate Bridge before finishing his journey with a visit to relatives in Danville.

"I got the idea when I stumbled across this blog this guy was doing. I was studying for exams and came across it," Evans recalled. "I knew I had the year off and I thought, 'There's no reason someone like me can't do that.'"

Knowing that his gap year was coming up, Evans began making preparations for the ride. One main thing was raising the capital to fund a bike, camping supplies, an overseas trip and two months of food and lodging.

"I worked for six months to pay for the trip. I was doing temporary work, really menial tasks," he explained.

One job was in a pharmaceutical factory doing quality control.

"It was tedious work, but I had the end target in sight so I did it," he recalled.

He also decided to take sponsorships and raise funds for Facing Africa, a charity working to prevent and cure Noma, a face-disfiguring infection. (See sidebar.)

Physically, Evans prepared for the ride by playing sports at school and doing some limited rides on the weekends. He said he only did two back-to-back rides of 55 and 65 miles over one weekend to get ready for the journey.

Initially, the plan was for two other graduates to join him on the journey, but both backed out, leaving Evans riding solo over 3,784 miles of a foreign country.

"My Dad offered to go with me," Evans said, "but the idea came to me that I could do it on my own and it would be that much more of a challenge."

After months of preparation he set out on May 1. Evans flew into Atlanta, Ga., en route to Newport News, Va., and it was there that he hit the first bump in the road.

"I got held up in immigration because they had lots of people arriving. By the time I got through passport control, the baggage carousel had stopped turning and they were unloading things from it," he said.

The box containing Evans' bike was nowhere to be found. The teen said he checked all throughout the baggage area, but no one had seen it.

"I was getting a bit frantic at that point," he remembered, "because I wasn't really sure what to do with myself."

At the airline's urging he made his connecting flight with promises that the bike would be found and shipped to him in Virginia. Five long days of waiting later, when Evans was ready to write the bike off as lost, it surfaced and was brought to his hotel. He was ready to begin riding, but he'd lost valuable days.

"My target was to ride 60 miles a day, approximately 60 days of cycling. I just figured I'd get fewer rest days," he said.

Evans had no support vehicles, or help of any kind, which meant he was forced to carry all his clothes, tools, maps and equipment on panniers attached to the front and rear wheels of the bike, adding to its weight. He intended to camp out five nights a week and stay in hotels the other two nights in order to catch up on sleep and wash clothes.

But heavy thunderstorms slashing through the Midwest made for long, wet days of cycling and forced him to seek indoor accommodations more than half the time.

Still he pedaled his way through the long climbs of the Appalachians and across the plains states. Using his iPhone, he updated a daily blog and kept in contact with his parents in Horsham.

"They were my moral support," he said with a smile. "My dad was very keen on this. My mom was supportive. But I don't think she got a good night's sleep until I got to California."

British cyclist Greg Evans had a very long day of cycling both physically ar

It was during that time that he also had a chance to see some of this foreign land that he'd only visited once before.

"I don't know what I expected, really, but I had a lot of good experiences here," he said. "Everyone said to me that Americans are really nice people, which is 100 percent true. Everyone I've spoken to has been really nice and helpful."

He encountered other bikers attempting the same route or shorter versions during his trek and even spent time with one man engaged in a solo ride around the world.

"He told me he'd been biking for 12 months already," laughed Evans. "Although it's not something I'd fancy, I could see how you'd get used to it and just be able to get up and keep going every day."

Settling into a routine, Evans said his body adapted to the long days of riding and it got easier. But there were still times where he wondered whether he'd make it all the way to San Francisco. One of those moments occurred in southern Colorado when Evans was crossing the Continental Divide at the 11,312 foot summit of Monarch Pass.

"It started raining when I was about two miles from the top. And at that grade, two miles is 20-30 minutes so I was soaked by the time I got to the top," he said. The ride down, he recalled, was so cold that he had to stop frequently to keep adding layers to keep in his body heat. "It's times like that, when you're freezing and wet, that you start to doubt."

Still he kept pedaling away, leaving the mountains behind and crossing through the heat of Utah and into California. After more than two months on the road, he rode the final leg of his journey going from Davis to Vallejo and then taking the ferry to San Francisco. He reached the Golden Gate bridge around 7 p.m. on July 16, which was 71 days after starting out.

After finishing, Evans spent a week in Danville with Mike and Melinda Faith, his mother's cousin. On July 22 he boxed up his bike and boarded a plane back to Horsham, where he'll be studying economics at University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

From there, he said he's not sure where the road will take him.

"I've finished this with the mentality that anything's possible to me now," he said. "I'm not sure what I want to, I'm just going to take it one step at a time and see how things pan out for me."

To read about Evans' route, equipment and the blog of his adventures in America go to gregstransamericacycle.co.uk. ■

THE STATES

British teen travels coast to coast on solo bike ride

PHOTOS COURTESY GREG EVANS

nd mentally crossing the salt flats of Nevada. Evans said it was challenging to be able to view such a vast expanse. "You could see the place you were headed in the distance, but pedaling for an hour brought you no closer."

About 7 p.m. on Day 71 on the road, Evans climbed up through the Presidio and ended his coast-to-coast journey at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Cycling for a cause

As if challenging himself to ride over 3,000 miles was not enough, Greg Evans also decided to use his journey as a means of raising awareness about a charity called Facing Africa. The group works to help African children suffering from a disfiguring and often fatal disease called Noma. The disease is a gangrenous infection of the face that starts out as ulcers on the gums and spreads. The primary victims of Noma are children 6 and under who become infected due to chronic malnutrition and poverty.

The disease is easily preventable through good oral hygiene and dental care not easily found in poverty stricken areas. If caught early, Noma can be safely treated with antibiotics, but once gangrene sets in, the mortality rate is around 90 percent.

Facing Africa, partnering with similar Dutch and German groups, has raised nearly $1 million over the past decade to fund teams of doctors going into the field to treat those suffering from the disease. The World Health Organization estimates that 140,000 new cases of Noma occur each year, mainly in sub-Saharan countries from Senegal to Ethiopia.

To learn more about Noma and Facing Africa go to www.facingafrica.org .

—Geoff Gillette

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY ● POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

Civic Meetings

Alamo Community Council
Alamo Community Council meets at 5 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, Swain House, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. The public is welcome to attend.

Alamo Improvement Association
Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the Alamo Improvement Association are held from 7-9 p.m., on the second Thursday of every month, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The 54-year-old membership organization of Alamo households supports preserving Alamo as a semi-rural community. Call 314-0521 or visit www.alamoca.org.

Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Danville Planning Commission
The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

Concerts

Blackhawk Plaza Concert Series
Blackhawk Plaza presents its free concert series starting at 7 p.m., Fridays, July 10-Aug. 14, with Evolution: the Journey tribute band Aug. 7; and Tainted Love Aug. 14. Seating begins at 5 p.m.; no outside food or drink. Call 736-2751.

Music in the Park Town of Danville will host Music in the Park from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, July-August, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville with Ron Thompson on Aug. 8; and Take Two on Aug. 22. These concerts are free. Visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

San Ramon Summer Concert Series Bring the family for a perfect summer evening at San Ramon's Summer Concert Series at 5:30 p.m., Sundays, in Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. These concerts are free with Orchestra d'Soul on Aug. 9.

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. The last concert is Aug. 14. These concerts are free. Visit www.alamore.org.

Events

American Red Cross Mobile Blood Drive The Red Cross will hold a drawing for an 8GB iPod nano, open to all presenting blood donors from noon to 5 p.m., Friday, August 14, at the Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road, Danville. Call (800)448-3543 or go to HelpSaveALife.org

Art and Wine Stroll Discover Danville will host the Art and Wine Stroll from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, in downtown Danville, the Livery and the Rose Garden. Cost is $25, including a commemorative glass, wine tasting, food, entertainment and shuttle service. Call 339-8330 or visit www.discoverdanvilleca.com.

Best of the Men Singles Dance
Once a year the single women of France invite the finest bachelors they know, with whom they are NOT romantically involved (sons, brothers, bosses, co-workers, friends), to meet their friends. Tonight we bring this wonderful custom to America! From 8 to 11:45 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 at the Hilton Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Cost is $20. Call (415)507-9962 or visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

Cal Shakes Costume Shop Sale
The California Shakespeare Theater costume department has just completed a huge reorganization of its inventory and the result is tons of costumes, wigs and accesories to be sold to the public at thrift-store prices. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 to Sunday, Aug.9 at Cal Shakes Rehearsal Hall, 701 Heinz Ave., West Berkeley. For more information call (510) 548-3422, ext. 131.

Diablo Lodge of Danville's 19th Anniversary Join in celebrating its 19th anniversary from 3-7:45 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville. Includes employee awards and scholarships, resident dinner with strolling violins, "Tribute to Italian Crooners" performing favorites of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett from 6:10 to 7:45 p.m. RSVP 838-8300.

Diablo Lodge Seniors Dare San Ramon Seniors to "Meet Them in the Alley" A group of 20 residents of Diablo Lodge of Danville have formed a Wii Bowling League.

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THE ROSE GARDEN

The team members range in age from 85 to 94 and meet twice a week for practice and tournaments. They have now challenged the San Ramon Senior Center to a match. This match will be held at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the San Ramon Senior Center at 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Call 838-8300.

First Annual Eco-Festival According to eco-wedding planner Sally Steele, it takes roughly 8,000 trees planted to offset the average 200-person wedding. It does not have to be that way and Eco-Festivals Inc. will prove it at the first annual Eco-Festival being held from Saturday, Aug. 29 to Sunday, Aug. 30 in San Ramon. Visit eco-festivals.org

Goodguys 23rd West Coast Nationals Rod & Custom Show The West's largest auto show featuring over 3,500 hot rods, customs and classics through 1957 vintage. Car show, vendor exhibits, live entertainment, arts & crafts, kids activities, a swap meet and lots more family fun! From 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 to Sunday, Aug. 23 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Cost is $17 for adults and $6 for kids(7-12). Call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

Hats Off America's 17th 10k/5k Come and join Sparky George, the Bear Flag Runner and a Vietnam-era Marine at the 17th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10k Run/5k Run or Walk starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Entry fee is $35 per person. No entry fee for volunteers. Call 855-1950.

Hot Summer Nights Car Shows Danville's Hot Summer Nights Car Shows combine classic cars and camaraderie to create an evening of summer celebration from 4-9 p.m., Thursdays, July 23 and Aug. 20, in downtown Danville. To learn more, contact David Miller at 437-3649 or ezasugo@hotmail.com.

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

Meet Our Designers Reception Flegel's Fine Furniture and Interior Design will hold an open house reception to meet its interior design staff from 5-8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at Flegels Fine Furniture, 300 Market Place, San Ramon. Entertainment and wine, fine art trunk show and seminar in furniture construction. Open to all. This event is free. Call 806-0430.

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

Monte Vista Alumni Run Monte Vista Cross Country Alumni are encouraged to come out and run against current Monte Vista Cross Country athletes for the "Alumni Fun Run," 9 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 9 at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Coach Mike Davis is looking for more past grads; recent athletes would love to hear the stories of previous athletes. Call 437-8360.

San Ramon Chamber Luncheon Each month, the San Ramon Chamber hosts a networking luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane. Robert Boroff will be the guest speaker Aug. 11 and will talk about "Emotional Hiring and How Not to Do It." Cost is $25 for San Ramon Chamber members; $35 for non-members, including lunch. Call 242-0600.

San Ramon Chamber Women's Golf Day Join other golf enthusiasts and women in business for a day of networking, golf education and fun from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, at San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane. Cost is $50, including golf, professional instruction and lunch. Call 242-0600.

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

Walking Tour of Historic Danville How much do you know about Danville's 151 year history when settlers first arrived or about the Native Americans who lived here hundreds of years before? Beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 8 in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., an experienced docent will lead a tour through downtown to numerous sites that played important roles in Danville's history. Cost is $3. Call 837-3750.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Rockin' & rollin' off to college: Ian Charbonnet, from Divide the Skies, belts out a verse at the Red House in May. Come see Divide the Skies farewell show along with special guests Availed and Via Comma at 6:15 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at the CPC gym, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. The members of the band, all graduates of San Ramon Valley High, are hosting the free event as a going-away-to-college show.

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. "Coraline" will be shown Aug. 14. Call 314-3400.

Fundraisers

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament The Sentinels of Freedom Foundation is holding its second annual golf classic and gala to benefit wounded veterans. Featuring comedian Bob Sarlatte and Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Recipients from Danville, San Ramon and Pleasanton. Takes place Monday, Aug. 10, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call 989-0100.

Kids & Teens

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

Lectures/ Workshops

Am I Just Forgetful or is it Chemotherapy After cancer treatment, many report difficulty with their thinking abilities. Learn symptoms, tips and helpful strategies to help manage chemobrain with Alice Barlettani, RN, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

Live Music

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

On Stage

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

Hair - the Tribal Rock Musical It ís the musical that outraged your parents in the 1960s and had a smashing return to Broadway this year. The Willows Theatre presents "Hair - The American Tribal Rock Musical" starting at 8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 24 through Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Willows Mainstage, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Hit songs include "Age of Aquarius" and "Let the Sunshine In." Cost is $30-$40, discounts are available. Call 798-1300.

Political Notes

Blackhawk Republican Women's Summer Social From 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29 is Casino Royale, a purely social evening of fun and games, good food and good company Monte Carlo style, featuring catered dinner and games of chance. RSVP by Aug. 23. $30 and a bottle of wine to share. Call 820-4329.

Spiritual

Crossing The Red Sea Journey through separation, divorce and beyond. Has the trauma of separation or divorce left you feeling like you are wandering in your own personal desert? Come, take comfort in knowing you are not alone. Presentation by Victoria MacDonald, MA. From 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is $75 (lunch included). Call 837-9141 ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

Journaling Toward Wholeness (Summer Series with Chiaraís Lantern) Explore creative pathways to the wisdom of the soul at a peaceful atmosphere for a day of nurturing through various journaling practices. A healing ritual will conclude the day. Presented by Rena Grant from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is $60. For more information call (925)837-9141 ext. 315.

Volunteering

Anna's Program The specialized program of Hospice of the East Bay, Anna's Program, is looking for dedicated and caring volunteers to provide companionship and practical support for women with recurrent breast cancer. To apply for free training, contact Vicki Smith at 887-5675 or e-mail vickis@hospiceeastbay.org.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

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"It makes a really big difference for the kids over there, especially being educated, making it safer and having better relationships with our troops."

Stuart Moore

Collecting for others

Rounding up goods for barrios takes on life of its own

By Susan Astbury

Stuart Moore, 17, set himself a bookish goal. It's not about reading. He wants to collect more items than anyone ever has to donate to Books for the Barrios.

Moore has collected approximately 1,100 National Geographic magazines; 10,000 books; countless arts and crafts supplies; about 2,000 tennis balls; 67 pounds of Legos; games; puzzles; toys; stuffed animals; office and school supplies; 694 carpet squares; and sports equipment.

It started one day in April when Stuart, who lives in Alamo, was on spring break.

"I wanted to do volunteer work to help the troops as well as needy children," said Stuart, a senior at Las Lomas High School. "So I went online and found Books for the Barrios and this happened to do both."

Stuart had found his niche.

"When we called Books for the Barrios, they said they needed help with packaging," Stuart said. "We drove over to their warehouse in Concord and I was wearing an Annapolis T-shirt. The owner, Dan Harrington, who is a Naval Academy graduate, came out and started talking to me." One of Stuart's aspirations is to attend the Naval Academy.

Books for the Barrios was founded in 1981 by former Navy pilot Harrington, his wife Nancy and other U.S. families who were stationed in the Philippines. It organizes shiploads of items to give to American forces stationed in conflict areas around the world for distribution to local children and schools.

Books for the Barrios has sent more than 12 million books overseas, trained teachers in developing countries, and established more than 50 schools reaching millions of children around the world.

"It makes a really big difference for the kids over there, especially being educated, making it safer and having better relationships with our troops," said Stuart. "And, it's just this little organization with a warehouse in Concord."

Stuart left the Books for Barrios warehouse that April day and decided that his objective was to surpass all the other contributors with what he collects. "It was my goal and I'm getting there," he said.

Stuart spends several hours each week scouring Craig's List for free items from rummage and garage sales. Then he sends e-mails to ask if they are willing to donate.

"I look for companies that are going out of business; even a thousand envelopes can be used as scratch paper. The kids don't have enough paper to write on," he explained. "We collect used tennis balls, carpet squares just so the children can sit on them in the classroom, or anything that's kid-oriented and can be used for an arts and crafts project. Everything counts."

Stuart's mother, Laura Moore, is literally the driving force behind Stuart since he's still working on getting his driver's license.

"Some days my mom and I will go out driving around for four or five hours," said Stuart. "We'll go out and collect the items, filling up our car until we don't have any more room…We do all the sorting and boxing so literally we dump off the boxes at the warehouse and it's all ready for them."

Dan Harrington said that Stuart is like Johnny Appleseed. "He's gotten sports equipment and 10,000 kid's books."

"Clean out your closets and shoot the items over to our warehouse," Harrington urges everyone. "The organization is run by the skin of our teeth."

Harrington had mentioned to Stuart that he wanted to start a P.E. program and needed sports uniforms especially for soccer, which is really popular in developing countries. Stuart came up with the idea to collect uniforms from graduating eighth-graders. He contacted middle school principals in the area and the result was an overwhelming 1,000 pounds of uniforms.

"Right before my last final on my last day of school at 6:30 a.m. my mom and I drove around and collected four full mini-van loads of uniforms," Stuart said.

Stuart and his mom agreed that one of the best parts about the collection is that Dutch Girl Cleaners in Walnut Creek donated its laundry service and washed them for free. Michelle Windsor, general manager of the all-green cleaners in Walnut Creek, said that Laura Moore is a regular customer and she asked how much they would charge to launder the uniforms.

"So we said that we would donate our services," said Windsor. "We were expecting a couple of boxes and then the truckloads started rolling in. Every employee was in shock."

To clean the approximately 2,400 pieces of clothing took about two weeks and 200 hours of washing, drying, sorting, folding and stacking. The cost would have been about $4,000. Many of the employees donated their time.

"Stuart is so important because he has the guts to stand up in front of middle schools, and he showed up with 1,000 jerseys," said Harrington. "The soldiers can go there and show them how to set up a soccer league."

Stuart also spends time at Richard Lee's East West Kung Fu school in Alamo preparing to compete in his second world championship in Germany in September.

"Stuart is a very disciplined kid," said Laura Moore. "The kung fu has instilled self awareness, self control as well as discipline."

He is entering his senior year of high school and hopes to go to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He said that after a visit he realized it was the perfect place for him.

"It had always interested me to be a military officer. I thought I'd go to the Naval Academy to do something that's bigger than myself," he explained. "It's not just me going to college for me. I'm going there to serve and help defend my country. I'm going to be a part of something bigger."

Stuart plans to continue his volunteer work for Books for the Barrios.

"I made a commitment to Dan and his wife Nancy and they know me personally now. So if I was to slack off, it would reflect poorly on me and I don't want that to happen," he said. "I want to show that I will be here and I can help them out and be a valuable asset. We all have to chip in and do our part."

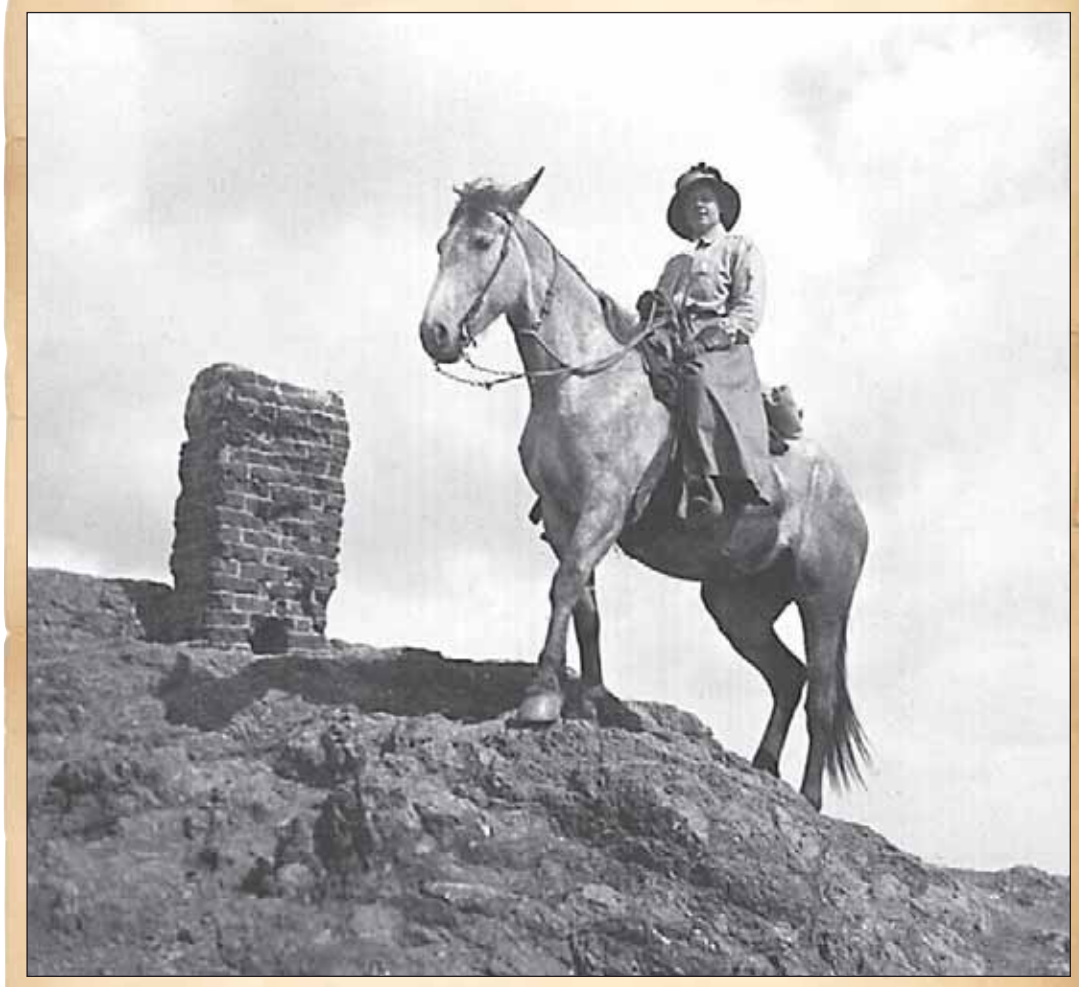
Books for the Barrios is located at 2350 Whitman Road, Suite D, in Concord. Telephone 687-7701 or visit www.booksforthebarrios.com.

SUSAN ASTBURY

Stuart Moore, 17, has made a difference at Books for the Barrios, which sends books, school supplies and other items to American military personnel overseas so they can build friendships by distributing them to the people where they are stationed.

PRESENTING THE PAST

By Beverly Lane



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

Mount Diablo—a popular destination for 100-plus years: Mattie Wiedemann of San Ramon rides her horse to visit the brick column at the summit of Mount Diablo early in the 20th century. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey used the Mount Diablo peak as a base point for its national triangulation survey in 1852.

THE WINE GUY

By Don Colman

Everybody loves Raymond

Throughout my life, I have always enjoyed drinking wine. Something changed about a year ago when I started writing this column. No longer would I simply grab a bottle of wine and drink it—I wanted something more. Now, there are two things I look for when I am going to review a wine: First, a story. There has to be something that I find intriguing about the winery. And second, great wine at a reasonable price.

2005 Raymond Vineyards Merlot

This week, I was digging around looking for a great story. I wanted something with a bit of history and strong family heritage. To that end, I came across Raymond Vineyards. Its roots in the wine business trace back more than 130 years—which is a feat in and of itself when you consider most wineries were forced to close during prohibition. Raymond was able to survive by producing religious wine ensuring the continuity of the winery.

During those years, the heritage stems from the Beringer name as one of the Beringer daughters married a Raymond son. It continued under Beringer until 1971, when the Beringer winery was sold. At that point, the Raymonds decided to open a winery bearing their name and continue with the tradition of family winemaking. Today, they are the fifth generation producing very balanced and flavorful wine.

When it came to the tasting, I decided I wanted to find a red wine that would pair well with salmon. A logical match was the 2005 Raymond Vineyards Merlot ($24). Colorwise, it is a perfectly clear, medium deep ruby red. Although the wine is still relatively young, it is very aromatic with lots of oak, cherry and vanilla scents. Most importantly, the taste. It is a somewhat dry, medium-bodied wine that has enough tannins to give it a chewy taste. It comes across as being acidic at first and then opens to become a very balanced and complex wine with a consistent finish.

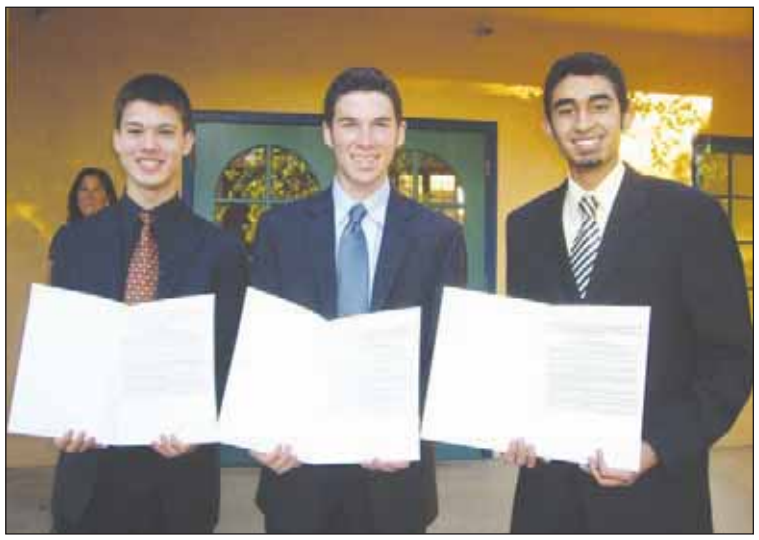
All in all, the Raymond Merlot is a very nice wine that pairs very well with heavier fish or most meats. It will age well over the next three to five years but is certainly complex enough to drink right away. This family has a strong heritage in the wine industry and it was demonstrated well in this bottle of wine. I would rank this wine at the higher end of an everyday wine, but it is worth every penny. Drink up and enjoy.

On a separate note, I was searching for something fun and close by to take some out-of-town guests when I came across the "Family Winemakers of California Tasting." There will be more than 350 family-owned wineries pouring wine in San Francisco on Aug. 23. It should be quite an experience and make for a great Sunday afternoon; take a look at www.familywinemakers.org for more details.

Until next time, Cheers!

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

OF NOTE



Nipun Bhandari, Sebastian DeLuca and Elliott Velson received a proclamation from the Town of Danville for winning top honors at the recent National Forensic League National Tournament.

Monte Vista excels at speech tourney

The Monte Vista Speech and Debate Team finished among the top 10 schools in the nation at the National Forensic League's National Tournament in Birmingham, Ala., from June 13-19. To qualify for the tournament students must have finished in the top three in their event at the local qualifying tournaments in March. More than 500 students from high schools all over the Bay Area attended the qualifiers. Monte Vista qualified a record 12 students to the National Tournament, the most in school history.

Monte Vista Winners were Nipun Bhandari, third in the nation Congress; Sebastian DeLuca, fifth in the nation Congress; Elliott Velson, eighth in the nation Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking; Hayden Padgett, quarter-finalist Dramatic Interpretation (top 28); Neil Malani, semi-finalist Congress (top 60); Percia Safar, Lincoln-Douglas Debate (top 60); Hinh Tran, Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking (top 60); Louis Li, Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking (top 60).

School of Excellence Awards are given out each year to the top schools in the tournament based on the number of rounds their students compete in at the National Tournament. Monte Vista was among only 10 schools nationwide to receive a school of excellence award in debate, and one of only three high schools in California to receive this award.

Marie Dal Porto, cuddling her pooch who is very much alive, built a pet memorial for her Gold Award.

Pet memorial and other golden projects

Last year, approximately 5,500 girls in the United States received the Girl Scout Gold Award, around 5.4 percent of the eligible registered Girl Scouts in grades 10-12. Of these, 12 Gold Award winners are from Danville, members of Leader Shirley Bull's troop 452. Winners receive congratulatory letters from the president of the United States, their senators and their governors. Gold Award projects must benefit the community while reflecting the personal goals and interests of each scout.

An example of this is Marie Dal Porto's project. She has owned and cared for neighborhood pets all her young life, and to reflect her love of four-legged Danville residents, Marie built a pet memorial on one of the walking trails in the Shadow Hills neighborhood consisting of two poles upon which neighbors can place the tags or collar of a pet that has died. To visit the memorial take El Capitan to Borica Drive then up the hill to Lowell Court. Turn left and the stairs to the walking trail are just past the first house on the left.

'My friend gave me a heads up on this...'

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ART SPACE

By John A. Barry

Watercolorist Robin Purcell, poet of the palette

"October Afternoon," a watercolor by Robin Purcell, won first prize at the 79th annual Statewide Exhibit of Contemporary Landscape Painters at the Santa Cruz Art League, juried by painter Kevin MacPherson.

If you've never seen an oil painting of Mount Diablo, chances are you either just moved to the area or you've been living a very sheltered life. It's understandable why such landscapes are so pleintiful (sic). The 3,864-foot-high mountain is a prominent topographical landmark, visible from many vantage points. But if you're like me, you may find a certain sameness in these omnipresent representations of "Devil Mountain."

So I was struck by the local landscapes, diabolical and otherwise, of Danville watercolorist Robin Purcell, particularly by the saturation of the colors. Purcell believes that many landscape painters render their images.

"Rendering is like trying to make a photographic image, and I'm not trying to 'render,'" she says. "I'm trying to interpret a scene and show the movement in it." Movement, she explains, is "a path for your eyes to travel."

Purcell differentiates rendering from her method of interpretation by equating the former to reportage and the latter to poetry.

"I'm not trying to be a reporter; I'm trying to give people a sense of how I feel" about Mount Diablo, for example. In addition to movement, she also focuses on shapes and values.

In painting the popular local geologic formation, it's "as much as shapes on paper as Mount Diablo," in her view. In doing so, she notes, she likes "to play with the idea of abstraction and reality" by "pushing" the shapes and colors to accentuate what excited her about the view in the first place.

Concerning values, Purcell says: "There are a lot of people who can draw, but if they don't get the values right, it totally falls apart." She learned about values from the work of William Wendt (1865-1946), known as the "dean of Southern California landscape painters." Purcell, who categorizes herself as a "curvy, blobby William Wendt," usually works with five values—white and black and three shades in between. Purcell paints in color—the values represent gradations of color from lightest to darkest.

In plein air (outdoor) painting in this locale, Purcell notes, "We live in a Mediterranean climate. You can go back day after day, and the view is still the same. With a large sheet of paper (22 by 30 inches), I will often go back to a site for two or three mornings. There's a certain point where I know I have enough information to finish it."

Finishing takes place in her studio. "When I get to the studio, I make an effort not to add any shapes, because it gets too busy." It is there that she saturates the lighter values she started with because "It's much easier to go darker than the other way." To help get the saturated colors that are a hallmark of her work, she uses hot-press paper, which, she explains, holds more pigment when it dries and retains more color than what most watercolorists use. Most of them paint wet washes on wet paper. "I do wet on dry, one section at a time."

One way Purcell differs from most other watercolorists is that she stands at the easel while painting. She keeps a roll of toilet paper next to her palette to control the amount of water so that it doesn't run down the vertical surface.

Danville watercolorist Robin Purcell will paint at a site two or three times until she has enough information to finish the painting in her studio.

Purcell studied graphic design and art history in college, where she tried every medium. She liked pigment on pure-white paper. "I don't really care for canvas," she says. She found oil "gummy" and acrylics "too much like plastic."

After graduation she worked as a package designer. When she started to stay home with her children, her husband enrolled her in a watercolor workshop with New England plein-air painter William Turns, whom she refers to as "the perfect person for me," to learn basic watercolor techniques. Since then, she has taken those techniques to new heights.

Robin Purcell's paintings can be seen locally at Studio 7 Fine Arts in Pleasanton and on the Web where she keeps a journal of her newest paintings at Robinpurcell-paints.blogspot.com.

John A. Barry is a writer and aspiring artist. To share anything art-related, call him at 314-9528 or e-mail jobarry@pacbell.net.

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Sports

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.

The 680 Drivers 14U red team placed fourth in the nation at the water polo Junior Olympics held at Stanford last week competing against 47 of the country's top teams.

680 Drivers place fourth nationwide in water polo

Championship 14U team open for new signups later this month

By Chuck Herrmann

Interstate 680 should mean more to residents in the Danville area than long drives and congested traffic jams. Now it stands for a competitive boys and girls water polo organization that's making a splash nationally.

The 680 Drivers was formed from the Danville Boulevards club and the East Bay Water Polo teams to create a water polo powerhouse.

"We have athletes from Benicia all the way to Livermore compete for us," said Matthew Mundelius, co-founder and head coach of the 14-and-under boys' squads.

The 680 Drivers 14U red team, made up of seventh- and eighth-graders, recently returned from the Junior Olympics held at Stanford with stats to make the Bay Area proud.

Coached by Mundelius, the team competed throughout the school year in National tournaments to better themselves and their chances at qualifying for the Junior Olympics. They earned two second-place finishes and one first-place finish.

With 48 total slots available in the 14U division, the 680 Drivers knew they needed strong fall, winter and spring seasons to earn one of the coveted eight Pacific Zone slots. This zone is one of 11 country-wide, and due to its population size was given eight slots of the 48.

The 680 Drivers were able to take not one of the bracket spots, but two, with the red team landing in the No. 1 spot in the Pacific Zone and the blue team in No. 6.

The team already had a 10th-place finish in last year's Junior Olympics but had lost a majority of its starters, so getting the No. 1 spot in the Pacific Division was incredible, said Mundelius.

"Losing all of those players and adding the younger guys did not slow us down one bit," he marveled.

What they went on to do, however, was absolutely amazing to all their fans.

The Junior Olympics broke up the 48 competing 14U teams into 16 brackets of three teams each. After those games were played, with the Drivers going 1-1, the undefeated teams went off to the platinum bracket for the top 24 squads, while the teams without wins were transferred to the gold bracket.

The club teams on the bubble, like the 680 Drivers, had to compete in a playoff game to determine their bracket. The Drivers red team was able to advance to the top 24 in what would be an epic rollercoaster ride for this young squad.

"We ended up playing the most games out of every team in the tournament. We had to keep fighting just to stay alive in the extremely competitive Platinum bracket," said Mundelius.

The Drivers even had to square off against the No. 1 seed in the whole country—twice. They also were able to defeat the Lamorinda water polo squad, a rival Northern California team.

The 680 Drivers red club team finished in fourth place overall out of the 48 teams that competed, not to mention the other thousands of teams that could not qualify for the prestigious tournament.

"Fourth place was an incredible accomplishment and we are so proud," said Mundelius. "The way these young men stepped up and competed showed their true character and determination."

The 680 Drivers club teams are always looking for members. Boys and girls in the eighth grade and younger compete year around while their high school counterparts compete during the summer.

Fall registration for 14U begins in late August. The 680 Drivers offer introductory classes for those interested in learning the fast-paced game of water polo. For more details, visit http://680polo.d4sportsclub.com/.

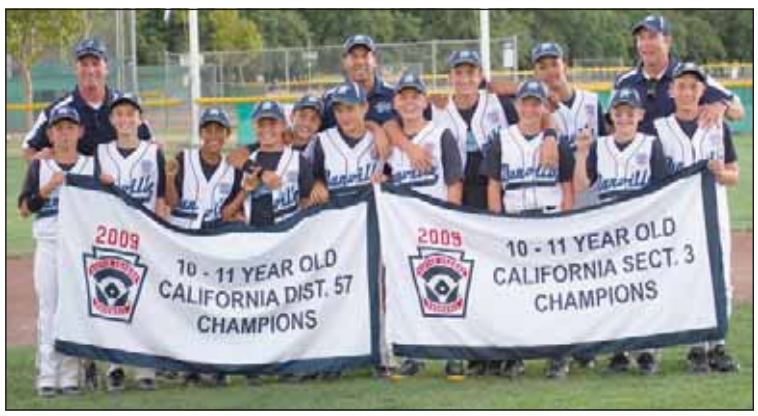
Now 680 is more than a freeway, it's a championship caliber program building respectful competitors and Olympic futures. ■

Girls take first in water polo

The 14U 680 Water Polo girls team took first place last weekend at the 2009 USA Water Polo S&R Sport Junior Olympics Gold Division. The team operates year round with athletes from Pleasanton to the Walnut Creek area. Team members are (back row, l-r) Assistant Coach Heather Jonhston, Casey Adams, Taylor Ryle, Natalie Seidemann, Casey Pond, Jaclyn Capie, Kim Johnson, Morgan Davenport, Grace Cochran, Head Coach Todd Halvorson, (front) Erin Livingston, Sara Johnson, Kim Anderson, Riley Shaw, Noelle Roberto and Assistant Coach Megan Moore.

HOOTS win Connie Mack

The Danville HOOTS Baseball Club won the 2009 Connie Mack Western Regional Tournament with a 3-1 win over Ca. Rockies (LA) on Sunday, Aug. 2, at Chabot College. The HOOTS became the first team since early records have been kept in 1959 from Northern California to go to the World Series held for the past 44 years in Farmington, N.M. The tournament, all wood bat competition, featured three Southern California teams, two Arizona teams, the Washington State Champion and the HOOTS.



Danville 10/11 All-Stars going to State

The Danville Little League 10/11s All-Stars won the District 57 championship then traveled to Tracy on July 18 for the section championships. They went 4-0, beating Mission San Jose, 11-0; Tracy, 11-1; and Alpine Menlo, 7-3. On July 22, they faced Alpine Menlo again, at the final Section 3 game in Tracy; they fell behind but began a homerun slugfest and ended up winning, 14-9. They travel to Auburn this weekend for the State Championship. Team members are (back row) Coach John Spears, Manager Brent Hughes, Coach Mike Lloyd, (front, l-r) Joey spears, Nick Moroney, Jake Hughes, Conor Maloney , Brian Barcellona, Joe Vranesh, Riley Moore, Ryan Murphy, Jake Lloyd, Greg Polosky, Clayton Tennant and Joey Matulovich.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

NorCal All Stars come to Danville

The streets of Danville were alive last week as visitors to the 2009 NorCal Division II International All Stars Tournament explored the area. The tournament was hosted by District 57 and the Danville Little League for six All-Star teams, and Danville area residents opened their homes to the 11-12-year-old players and their families, including players from Team Australia who chose to play in District 57 after being eliminated from International All-Star competition. Above, Danville Little League President Bill Erickson (center) and District 57 District Administrator Dave Wetmore hand out pins after the game to (on left) SRVLL player Jonny Cox.

A Kangaroo from Team Australia takes off for first base in a game against San Ramon Valley Little League at Osage Park.

All eyes look to the sky after the San Ramon Valley Little League All-Star player hits the ball when facing Team Australia.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Alamo

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: $717,000
Highest sale reported: $1,875,000
Average sales reported: $1,264,045

Danville

Total sales reported: 31
Lowest sale reported: $278,500
Highest sale reported: $2,220,000
Average sales reported: $846,210

Diablo

Total sales reported: 2
Lowest sale reported: $1,200,000
Highest sale reported: $1,775,000
Average sales reported: $1,487,500

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 40
Lowest sale reported: $137,000
Highest sale reported: $1,375,000
Average sales reported: $541,675

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2009

Alamo

251 Bolla Avenue R. Wagner to M. & A. Townsend for $1,500,000

3000 Golden Meadow Drive T. & D. Garrett to G. Fugere for $1,045,000

513 Justin Morgan Drive Olson Trust to J. & M. Mcardle for $1,650,000

26 Kimberley Place American Home Mortgage to F. Oshay for $1,875,000

32 Lancaster Court Lyman Trust to J. Haupt for $1,135,000

391 Livorna Heights Road Stark Trust to T. & S. Duling for $912,000

430 Livorna Road I. & J. Hansen to Wu Trust for $1,755,000

38 North Jackson Way S. & S. Stamates to J. & L. Stamates for $717,000

1591 Ramona Way Schnugg Trust to A. Aaron for $1,175,000

3204 Stone Valley Road J. & B. Barnette to K. Etherington for $915,500

1582 Via Romero D. & J. Penner to F. & D. Giolitti for $1,225,000

Danville

176 Alta Vista Way Hung Trust to C. & J. Matson for $1,110,000

83 Amberfield Lane Otoole Trust to J. & B. Won for $485,000

94 Amberfield Lane M. Costello to M. Dawson for $460,000

50 Bordeaux Court Prudential Relocation to J. & T. Kent for $780,000

10 Brightwood Circle Fugere Trust to F. Rowe for $2,220,000

44 Brightwood Circle Quinn Trust to R. & M. Forster for $1,600,000

720 Brookside Drive J. & J. Kelly to C. & S. Preston for $865,000

121 Camino Amigo Court Flavell Trust to I. & M. Marsh for $860,000

260 Crestridge Drive Dennis Trust to M. & V. Schoenbeck for $1,070,000

3024 East Griffon Street Shapell Industries to D. Long for $930,000

206 East West Prospect Avenue Indymac Bank to Bruce Trust for $278,500

2004 Fostoria Circle Aurora Loan Services to S. Mahapatra for $303,000

2050 Fostoria Circle Structured Asset Securities to L. Ha for $290,000

613 Garden Creek Place Indymac Bank to C. Engle for $334,000

2346 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to T. & L. Ching for $1,022,500

2352 Genoa Street Lennar Homes to Heinrich Trust for $1,095,000

26 La Gonda Court Clancy Trust to T. & J. Vasconi for $885,000

251 Montair Drive B. & J. Maniex to A. & K. Johnson for $1,300,000

11 Pinewood Place J. & M. McCarthy to M. & R. Catchings for $398,500

1141 San Ramon Valley Boulevard K. Connolly to Offenhartz Trust for $285,000

1675 St. David Drive S. & K. Gerhart to I. & T. Stine for $785,000

4123 Sugar Maple Drive Washington Mutual Bank to H. Park for $837,000

655 Thornhill Road Johansen Trust to G. & P. Hamilton for $729,000

111 Victoria Place Prudential Relocation to B. & S. Folkman for $1,575,000

3884 Welshland Street Shapell Industries to M. Small for $925,000

3947 Welshland Street Shapell Industries to L. & M. Silva for $950,000

269 West El Pintado #B Mclaughlin Trust to S. Nikpour for $415,000

4032 Westminster Place G. & P. Greer to Tamhane Trust for $870,000

4064 Westminster Place Right House to Gard Trust for $770,000

2 Windover Terrace A. & C. Roman to D. & S. Bennett for $1,200,000

50 Windsor Court Washington Mutual Bank to D. Kesiakov for $605,000

Diablo

1893 Calle Arroyo R. Hanson to Clancy Trust for $1,200,000

1984 La Cadena Cobler Trust to T. & K. Schmitz for $1,775,000

Walnut Creek

3674 Annandale Court Scharr Trust to J. & M. Doob for $644,000

714 Anza Court D. Heaton to D. Choi for $544,000

1221 Avenida Sevilla #3C Hatoff Trust to L. Werme for $450,000

418 Boundary Oak Way S. & A. Anderson to M. & V. Knoth for $1,030,000

2095 Cactus Court #2 Heitmeyer Trust to Gledhill Trust for $445,500

1743 Carmel Drive #19 New Century Home Equity to X. Tan for $188,000

2017 Countrywood Court C. Salacka to Sylvester Trust for $419,000

2114 Darby Court S. Pfeiffer to Y. Tan for $565,000

381 Dover Drive Matthew Trust to T. Kelly for $739,000

290 El Divisadero Avenue Christian Trust to K. Baker for $629,000

55 Frances Way B. & K. Johnson to J. Grenham for $815,000

184 Glen Court B. Mills-costello to M. & C. Ricinak for $1,375,000

1907 Highridge Court IRBS Corporation to M. Faxel for $595,000

6500 Horsemans Canyon Drive Robmar Trust to Hoyt Trust for $1,125,000

28 Norman Court M. & C. Carter to B. & E. Demshar for $660,000

410 North Civic Drive #201 Sovereign Bank to O. Zusin for $209,000

2716 Oak Road #114 Downey Savings to M. Pon for $230,000

2730 Oak Road #18 D. Martin to D. Grace for $170,000

2677 Oak Road #210 J. & M. Doob to K. Shenoy for $368,000

2742 Oak Road #214 S. Sudike to Y. & S. Bar-Gil for $220,000

2724 Oak Road #87 Gateway Bank to A. Tomera for $295,000

121 Ponderosa Lane Paredes Trust to V. Barrett for $675,000

2029 Ptarmigan Drive #1 Graf Trust to Grohoski Trust for $359,000

1621 Ptarmigan Drive #5B Dalporto Trust to Hall Trust for $179,000

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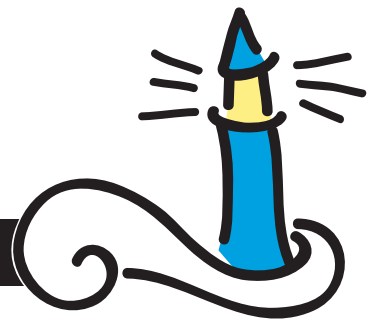

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115 Announcements

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Piano Lessons, Danville area
Experienced teacher - will drive to you Call Elizabeth (925) 549-1115

Pregnant Women and New Moms!
Nurture yourself with a mindfulness and yoga retreat designed just for you. http:// tiny.cc/mmworkshops

133 Music Lessons

HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES
Try Something New!
Call Bennetta Heaton
(925) 820-1169
- located in Danville -

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

135 Group Activities

"GIRLS NIGHT IN"

CROSSFIT SAN RAMON!

FREE BOOT CAMP!

SEWING CAMP! www.KidzKraftz.com

Women's Trip to Spain Oct. '09

Women's Trip:San Antonio Dec '09

155 Pets

INDOOR CATS FREE!
Two beautiful Male Indoor cats, 3 years old, neutered and de-clawed. One is Classical black and white. The other is longhaired ginger. Owner suddenly became allergic and now is trying to find them a new home. Free to a good home (must go together). Please Call Ann (925) 875-0828

201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

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

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

Pace Arrow 1989 MotorHome - $11,000.00

REXHALL 2000 AERBUS - 33,000

202 Vehicles Wanted

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

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

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2417 Heatherlark Circle, August 8th - 8-4
Fisher-Price Doll House with furniture & storage unit, Large mirror for bedroom, Precious Moments Figurines, and some collectable plates, Clothing (adult & children), Household items, Girls 2 chair/table set , some toys, and lots of miscellaneous items. Pleasanton, 3038 Warrenton Court, Sat, July 11, 8am -1pm Pleasanton, 3146 Boardwalk Street, Sat, July 11, 8am - 1pm

Pleasanton, 7998 Stonehurst Court, August 8, 8-3
Baby clothes (infant-toddler), toys, home improvement, sports, outdoor, holiday. Name brands at bargain basement prices.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

ANTIQUE CHAIRS - $35/each

Antique Oak China Cabinet - $550.

Antique Oak Wash Stand - $195.00

Antique Victorian End Table - $125.

Royal Doulton figurine - $45

220 Computers/ Electronics

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

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

27'FLATSCREEN TOSHIBA T.V. - $100.00

240 Furnishings/ Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - $10

3 Solid Oak Barstools - $100

COMFORTER-KING - $25.00

Corner Computer Table - $35

dark wood queen headboard - $40.00

Desk - $100

Glass desk and Chair - $200.00

king bed frame(new in box) - $20.00

Old Revere Pots wanted

Solid Wood Office/Computer Desk - $340

Thomasville Entertainment Center - $250

Wardrobe Armoire - $500

245 Miscellaneous

2006
2006 Bobcat Toolcat 5600, 4X4, Loader, Forks and Dumb Body, Heat/ AC Cab, price $4200 ask questions: dd567n@gmail.com/(504)2085590

Home Staging Training Special - $199.00

moving boxes/clean pkg. paper - $25.00

Non-stick stove top grill - $20

RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - $25.00

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

WARRIOR LACROSSE WALL - $100

330 Child Care Offered

Au Pairs / Great Childcare

345 Tutoring/ Lessons

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355 Items for Sale

Girl's Rollerblade Brand Inlines

500 Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant Pleasanton
Strong computer skills are a must. Prefer someone with experience in the industry.
Independent - Self starter
Enthusiastic
Good at communicating with clients/ People pleaser
Outlook
Quickbooks
Excel
Publisher
Part time 10 to 20 hours a week - $17 to $20 an hour.
Please fax us your resume at 925-315-8500 or email at Sue@Soldinaflash.com

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Quit the "Monkey Business!"
Change YOUR life in 90 days! Class: "Make It YOUR Business!Äù 602/568-9417 or 925/736-1093

560 Employment Information

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Pleasanton, 2 BR/1 BA - $1300

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Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA
Pleasanton 4/2.5 Quiet court location. New kitchen, tile flooring, windows, etc. No pets. (925)462-3055

Pleasanton, Downtown, 3 BR/2.5 BA
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809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

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

Danville, 5+ BR/3 BA - $999,900

840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

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

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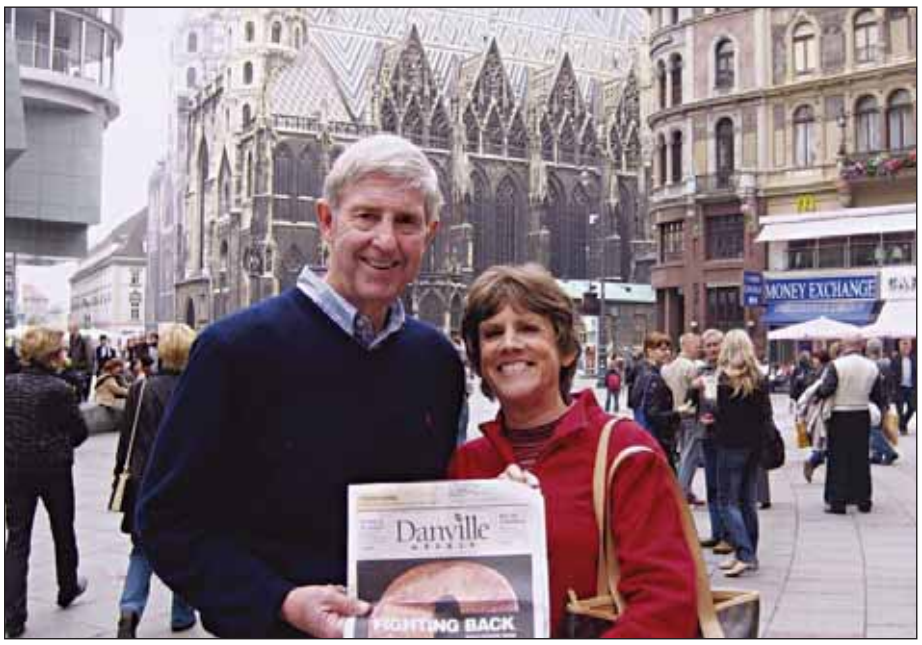
20 acres near Booming El Paso, Texas. Was $16,900. Now $10,755!! $0 Down. Take over payments $159/ month! Owner Financing. Free Maps/ Pictures.1-800-343-9444. (Cal-SCAN)

Baja Beachfront Lots
Pacific Ocean waterfront and ocean view lots with a mile long sandy, swimable beach, near La Paz, Baja, Mexico. Attractive pricing for early investors on the first 5 lots. Panoramic vista lots are $25K to $50K, and the waterfront lots are $100K. First American Title Insurance and Escrow is available for all properties. This area is ideal for those who love natural beauty and tranquility, but not for those looking for flashy tourist town night life. Glen Howard at 650 464-1257.

TAKE US ALONG



Guten morgen: L.J. and Margie Hauss remember their Weekly on a trip to visit their daughter Beth and their son-in-law Kory in Germany. They also went to Vienna.

Burning Man: Toni Gerard and John Baker handle a hot Weekly in Black Rock City, Nev., at the annual event to celebrate art and self expression in 2008.

PET OF THE WEEK

CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Out of this world

Meet Cosmos. He appears to be looking skyward in hopes the stars are aligned in his favor and he finds a new home soon. Cosmos is a 4-year-old, neutered male Tabby with a big beautiful white chest, white paws, and a handsome face. He has a pink nose and beautiful green eyes. Cosmos is a big boy, probably weighing close to 18 pounds. Cosmos is very friendly and he loves attention. According to his previous owner Cosmos gets along fine with other cats and dogs and he is well-mannered inside the home. Visit Cosmos (pet # 86080) 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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For Market Place Ads Contact
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THIS SUMMER, SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER WANTS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN AND TEACH THEM SAFETY. SUMMER IS THE PEAK ACCIDENT AND INJURY SEASON FOR CHILDREN. THE MOST FREQUENT INJURIES ARE DROWNINGS, FALLS, AND BICYCLE, CAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS.

Summer Safety FOR YOUR KIDS.

WATER SAFETY

- Never leave children unattended around a pool or water – not even for one minute. Accidents occur fast.
- Flotation devices are not drown-proof.
- Children should always wear a life vest while boating and near open water.
- Always close your pool gate. Double-check the gate after people have been in the pool area.
- Review your pool rules and safety with family, friends and babysitters.
- Learn CPR. You could save a life.

SUN SAFETY

- Always use sunscreen and wear protective clothing.
- Make sure youngsters drink enough water.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke: dizziness, nausea, rapid heart beat.

PREVENT BURNS

- Watch toddlers closely near barbecues, campfires or outdoor fireplaces. Burns are common injuries.
- Install screens or some type of barrier where appropriate.
- Metal playground equipment can get hot enough to cause burns on hot days.

PREVENT FALLS

- Move beds and chairs away from windows. Children may jump and play, and could fall through open windows.
- Make sure low windows are closed to prevent young children from falling out.
- Install gates at the top of stairs or decks to prevent falls.

ROAD SAFETY

- Always wear helmets and protective gear while biking, skating or skateboarding.
- Discuss bicycle and road safety with your children.
- Review pedestrian safety with children as well as adolescents.
- Never leave a child alone in a car. Temperatures quickly reach over 100 degrees.
- Drive cautiously. Children move quickly and may be difficult to see, especially when backing up. You may not see toddlers and older children playing behind a car.
- Always put your children in car seats or seat belts.

Safety tips are brought to you by the Pediatrics Department at San Ramon Regional Medical Center:

Tracy Trujillo, M.D. *Pediatric Department Chair*
Nick Giardini, M.D. *Director, Inpatient Pediatric Services*
Vicki Starr, R.N., CPNP
Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist & Nurse Manager

The Pediatric Program at San Ramon Regional Medical Center has a pediatrician in the hospital 24 hours of every day from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland.

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