

Danville Weekly

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Danville Councilman
Mike Shimansky
1944 - 2009

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INSIDE

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE NEW DANVILLE BOWL

What's your favorite sport?



Zach Scherman

sixth-grader, Stone Valley Middle School

Bowling. I used to bowl every day, but then my arm started hurting, so I only bowl about two to three times a week. It was like I lived here, because I love to bowl. I've only been to one other bowling alley, and that's when we were on vacation. Sometimes I watch bowling on TV on Sunday.



Chase Roberson

sophomore, San Ramon Valley High School

Football. I like to play it, and I like to go to football games with my family. I like the NFL games more than high school or college football games. My favorite team is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, because I used to live in Florida. I'm excited the season is finally here.



Paul Hicks

freshman, Diablo Valley College

Soccer. There's something going on all the time. It's a little more action packed than, say, football or baseball. I've played in the Mustang League, and the level of finesse is a little higher than other sports. I've also played football and baseball where there's a lot of sitting. I used to go to the Earthquake games until they moved to Texas.



Sue Mulkey

New Danville Bowl junior director

Soccer and bowling. I played soccer for 10 years in Dublin and absolutely loved it. I was on a traveling team and won the state championship. My husband is a PBA bowler, and I love bowling, too. I really don't have an interest in other sports, except I am a Chicago Cubs and Bears fan.



Marion Kothe

local business owner

I'm really not much of a sports fan, but soccer is a sport I would watch. My husband is Dutch and follows world soccer all the time. He's the one that got me to watch it for the first time. It's really fast paced and doesn't put you to sleep. My son, Brandon, bowls, and I love watching him.

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

About the Cover

Chelsea Gerber, 18, was diagnosed four years ago with Lafora, a rare, progressive and degenerative form of epilepsy that strikes children in early adolescence. Her family and friends have begun an organization called Chelsea's Hope to unite others struggling with the disease and to raise funds for research. Photo by Cheryl Bigman/www.cherylbigrmanphoto.com.

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TAKE US ALONG



Tropical interlude: The Danville Weekly travels with John and Laura Barakett on their honeymoon in Aruba.

Band director on vacation: Danville residents Larry Anderson (founder of the Danville Community Band) and his wife Jan read the Weekly in the shadow of some of Holland's last remaining ancient windmills on a recent Grand European River Boat Cruise.



Italian holiday: Joe and Danielle King pose with their Weekly in front of the Vatican on a three-week trip to Italy where Danielle studied at the Universita Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore in Milan.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Mike was really ‘Mr. Danville’ in the sense that he’s been around so long.”

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich remembering Councilman Michael Shimansky, who died Tuesday.
See story, PAGE 5.

NEWS DIGEST

Save Mount Diablo to purchase 165-acres

Save Mount Diablo announced Friday that it is purchasing the 165-acre Viera-North Peak parcel for \$975,000 and for future addition to Mt. Diablo State Park.

“We’re moving quickly in spite of the State’s budget crisis, proposed temporary closure of 100 state parks, and bond freeze,” said Executive Director Ron Brown.

The property is on the slopes of Diablo’s North Peak at 3,557 feet, east of Clayton, and is one of two highest elevation private properties remaining on Mount Diablo, which is 3,849 feet. It shares half of its 2.5-mile border with Mt. Diablo State Park. It is also a hot spot for biodiversity with as many as 50 rare plant species expected or recorded in the past, in addition to a number of rare animal species.

Save Mount Diablo made its first formal offer to acquire the property in 1986, without success. Owned by a longtime ranching family, the (Azevedo)-Vieras, the property was placed on the market in 2007 after family matriarch Lucy Viera died in 2002. Recently the Viera estate accepted Save Mount Diablo’s offer of \$975,000. Due diligence has been completed, a down payment of \$175,000 has been made, escrow closed on Friday, Sept. 4, and Save Mount Diablo has until March 4 to raise the remaining \$800,000.

Eugene O’Neill fans to converge on Danville

The annual Eugene O’Neill Festival takes place next week, Sept. 24-27, with plays, lectures and tours of the O’Neill Commemorative on Front Street and the Tao House.

The festival kicks off with “O’Neill 101,” an overview of the playwright’s life and his impact on the American theater, led by St. Mary’s College emeritus professor Dan Cawthon, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Danville Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

“The Designated Mourner” by Wallace Shawn will be performed in the Old Barn at Tao House theater Sept. 25-27. Self-guided tours of Tao House will be held throughout the Saturday, Sept. 26, and walking

tours of downtown Danville will take place that morning.

A panel discussion at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Town Meeting Hall will include a one-act play, “Always Gene.” Also Ken Burns’ PBS film, “the National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” will be aired at 4 p.m. that same day in the Mt. Diablo Room of the Danville Library, 400 Front St.

For more information, go to www.eugeneoneill.org or call 820-1818.

Downtown Danville goes dark

Business owners had a rough time Tuesday afternoon in downtown Danville, following a sizable power outage. A total of 253 customers were out of power during the peak of the outage, according to PG&E’s Tamara Sarkissian.

Sarkissian said the outage started earlier in the afternoon when equipment near the intersection of Hartz Avenue and San Ramon Valley Boulevard failed. Reports say power fluctuated more than once earlier in the day before the mid-afternoon outage occurred.

Customers from the southern end of Alamo to around Prospect Ave in the downtown area were reporting outages.

Business owners reported that power was restored shortly after 4:30 p.m.

Learn about Lincoln as he turns 200 years old

An Abraham Lincoln traveling exhibit will come to Danville in April to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, but residents can get a preview with a lecture next week on “Lincoln at 200 - In Fact Rather than Fiction.” Dr. Gerald S. Henig, author and professor emeritus at Cal State East Bay will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.

The seasoned lecturer will talk about the legends of our 16th president: Was he genuinely interested in the welfare of the African American? Was he an effective military commander? Was he too soft on the defeated South? By focusing on Lincoln as great emancipator, commander in chief, political leader, constitutionalist, architect of reconstruction and as an “uncommon” common man, Henig will attempt to separate fact from fiction.

Corrections

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

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San Ramon eyes Tassajara Valley

Danville and San Ramon to discuss spheres of influence

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Officials from Danville, San Ramon and Contra Costa County will be sitting down and examining the eastern boundary between the two towns in an effort to determine just where each municipality's sphere of influence ends.

At a Sept. 9 meeting, members of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) went over a Municipal Service Review for the towns in the central portion of the county. Part of that review includes determining where each town's sphere of influence ends.

The review recommended that the SOI for Danville be reduced on the western end to bring it into line with the county's urban limit line. No change was suggested for

the eastern boundary. A similar recommendation was made for San Ramon.

However, with the recent resurgence of the New Farm Development, a large scale plan located just off Camino Tassajara at Danville's east end, both towns have evinced interest in who will have control of the Tassajara Valley.

Spokesmen for both Danville and San Ramon went before LAFCO at the Sept. 9 meeting, asking for two very different results. Both Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich and Town Manager Joe Calabriga requested that any decision regarding the SOI be put off until the town can complete an updating of its general plan.

The update has been an ongoing

See **TASSAJARA VALLEY** on Page 8

records, replacing the state's previous system, which required faxing information requests. Rather than spend a week or more waiting for the information, officials will be able to access the information almost instantaneously. Each year, more than 60,000 requests are made to the Attorney General's office.

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A new program unveiled Tuesday by California Attorney General Jerry Brown will provide doctors, pharmacists and police with a new weapon to slow down the rising tide of prescription drug abuse in the state. And Danville resident Bob Pack is largely responsible.

Brown unveiled the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The program, one of a handful in the United States, will provide a massive online database of a patient's prescription history that will be available in real time.

The database gives health professionals and others instant access to a patient's controlled substance

records, replacing the state's previous system, which required faxing information requests. Rather than spend a week or more waiting for the information, officials will be able to access the information almost instantaneously. Each year, more than 60,000 requests are made to the Attorney General's office.

Pack knows firsthand the effect that prescription drug abuse can have. In October 2003, Pack's son Troy, 10, and daughter Alana, 8, were struck and killed while walking along Camino Tassajara. The driver of the vehicle, Jimena Barreto, was found to have been drinking and taking Vicodin.

"This started me down the path of how did she get these pills?"

Pack said. "I started looking into it and what I found was that in most cases the doctors don't share records. So they're not sharing a patient record even within the same hospital."

Barreto was found to have received multiple prescriptions over the course of several days. Pack said it was this lack of communication among the doctors that led him to begin looking at what would eventually be the CURES program.

"One of the things I thought was, 'Why can't these drugs be tracked electronically and this information shared with doctors and pharmacists prior to prescribing or filling a prescription?'" Pack said. "With this data at their fin-

See **PACK** on Page 8

Devoted Town Councilman Michael Shimansky dies

Public servant was stricken by meningitis weeks earlier

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Danville Councilman Michael Shimansky died early Tuesday afternoon at Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, after coming down with bacterial meningitis Aug. 17.

He was visiting his family in San Diego when he began to suffer severe flu symptoms and was hospitalized. Since being hospitalized four weeks ago, the venerable councilman was in a comatose state.

"We're all just deeply saddened," said Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich. "It was a shock. It was five weeks ago today that we last saw him. He was happy, he was excited, he was going to see his grandkids."

A week later, Arnerich said they heard the news of Shimansky's illness. "It has just been a blur of shock since then."

"Mike was really 'Mr. Danville' in the sense that he's been around so long," added Arnerich. "He was unique in that he retired very young from Pacific Bell and had the opportunity to get involved in the community in more ways and more intensively than a lot of people could."

Mr. Shimansky, 65, served on the Danville Town Council for 20 years, first elected in 1989, then re-elected to office in 1993, 1997, 2002 and 2006. He served in the rotating position of mayor in 1993, 2003 and 2007. Before that he was on the town's first Parks and Leisure Services Commission.

Town Manager Joe Calabriga was informed of Shimansky's



Danville Town Councilman Mike Shimansky's chair stands empty, surrounded by flowers during Tuesday's Town Council meeting. Shimansky, a councilman for 20 years, died Tuesday afternoon from complications after being struck down in August by bacterial meningitis.

GEOFF GILLETTE

death early in the afternoon by the councilman's family.

"I had the opportunity to work with him for 20 years," he said. "It's a tremendous loss for his family and this community. There are just so many different people and segments of our community who will feel this loss very profoundly."

Besides being a councilman, Mr. Shimansky was extremely involved in the community as well as helping out at the state and national level. He traveled to New Orleans to join American Red Cross efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and he helped out with the wildfires in San Diego

County in 2007.

He was well known locally for officiating soccer and lacrosse games and track meets, presiding over the Primo's and Devil Mountain Runs, and participating in the Fourth of July Parade. He was instrumental in the establishment of the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park.

Mr. Shimansky was also always present at seniors activities, veterans events and representing those with special needs. He played Santa Claus at the Town's annual Elf Workshop and at the Danville Community Band's holiday concerts.

See **SHIMANSKY** on Page 6

Danville Weekly to end print edition after four-and-a-half years

Publication will shift online, expand digital offerings

The Danville Weekly will publish its last print edition Oct. 2 and shift its focus entirely online, publisher Gina Channell-Allen announced this week.

The online enterprise has been in process for more than a year as the Weekly has greatly expanded the number of visitors to its Web site and launched the very successful Danville Express, an e-mail news digest delivered to more than 5,000 people.

"With the cost and environmental impact of printing and mailing a newspaper continuing to rise, we have been planning for the day when we felt an online alternative could more efficiently fill the same needs in the community as a newspaper," Channell-Allen said. "Unfortunately, the dismal economy has accelerated these plans."

"While we realize this will be an adjustment for many, it puts us at the forefront of the way people will get their news and information in the future, and it will ultimately allow us to do much more than what is possible in a printed newspaper," she continued.

The changes will include concentrating resources to report up-to-the-minute local news online, moving from three days a week to a Monday through Friday daily Express e-mail edition, and an emphasis on community participation and interaction.

This new, multiplatform strategy

for the Danville Weekly will "secure and enlarge our role in serving the daily, local news and advertising needs of Danville and the neighboring communities we now cover," Channell-Allen said.

In just the last year, both unique monthly visitors and page views on DanvilleWeekly.com have tripled.

"A great number of community members prefer to receive their news more quickly in an electronic format," said Channell-Allen, referring to the 18,000 unique visitors to the Web site each month.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 5, residents can look to DanvilleExpress.com for local news and advertising, and popular features such as the Town Square community forum, movie reviews and times, and a host of other resources.

"While it saddens us to discontinue the print version, we believe the future of community news is online," said Channell-Allen. "We look forward to continuing our tradition of quality journalism, just delivering it via a different medium. And we are excited about introducing new features that help build a stronger and more interactive community."

The Danville Weekly began publication May 6, 2005, from an office on Diablo Road. During the intervening years, it also published a special Hay Days section for July 3-4, 2008, and an Info Resource Guide. It is part of Embarcadero Publishing, which has three papers on the peninsula, one in Marin and the Pleasanton Weekly. ■

Alamo woman selected for LAFCO

Burke to fill alternate position on planning entity

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Residents in the southern part of Contra Costa County have an additional voice representing their interests, as Alamo resident Sharon Burke was named last week to fill a vacant position on the Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Burke, who has long been heavily involved in Alamo and was a founder of the incorporation movement, was voted in to serve as an alternate to the group. Her list of accomplishments includes being a member of the League of Women Voters, heading the Children's Hospital Auxiliary and serving in PTA offices in local schools.

At their meeting Sept. 9, members of the commission looked over the applications of four finalists. A total of 12 Contra Costa



Sharon Burke

County residents expressed an interest in filling the role, as an alternate to commission member Martin McNair.

LAFCO is a seven-member board charged with regulatory and planning duties throughout the county. The commission membership is made up of individuals from the Board of Supervisors, city councils, special districts and from the community at large.

Each of these membership categories also has an appointed representative to serve as an alternate if the member is unable to attend. Alternates are able to attend meetings and participate in the discussion of agenda items, but unless they are filling in for their board member they are unable to vote.

Burke was unable to attend the Sept. 9 meeting due to a family emergency that took her out of town. However, she provided the commission with a statement regarding her interest in LAFCO and her reasons for seeking out the position.

"As currently constituted, Con-

tra Costa LAFCO does not have a resident of South County as a member or alternate on the Commission and has not had one for years," she stated. "I believe I would bring an additional point of view to LAFCO to represent a currently under-represented area of the county."

A subcommittee went through the applications and narrowed it down to four. The subcommittee recommended the full commission choose Burke both for the strong qualities she would bring to the role but also for representation of the southern end of the county.

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, herself an alternate on the commission, endorsed the choice of Burke for the position.

"It's obvious we have a wealth of talented individuals," Piepho said. "I think it's important to recognize a geographic balance. We are missing a representative for the southern portion of the county. Sharon's nomination would fill that gap."

Commissioners moved to pass
See **LAFCO** on Page 8



GEOFF GILLETTE

Remembering 9/11

(From left) Danville Police Officer Paul Murphy, SRVFPD Assistant Chief Jim Martin, Marine Captain Jason Giannini and VFW Commander Tony Carnemolla, representatives of emergency services agencies and our armed forces, attend Friday's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Oak Hill Park in Danville. The ceremony, held to honor those lost in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, featured speeches by Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich, San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson, District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho and Congressman Jerry McNerney.

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SHIMANSKY

Continued from Page 5

"I'm getting phone calls and e-mails from all across the county," said Councilman Mike Doyle. "People loved him for his work ethic. Every decision he made, he had the people of Danville in mind."

"When I first ran for office in 1990, he was the only one to come up and say, 'Mike, I'll help you in any way I can,'" recalled Doyle. "I will miss him dearly. We argued quite a bit but it was civil and we agreed to disagree."

Councilwoman Karen Stepper recalled the passion Shimansky displayed for serving the town, the myriad ways in which he expressed it and the fact that he never sought out recognition for the work he did.

"Mike never looked for glory,"

she asserted. "He just went out there and did the jobs that needed doing."

"When I think of Mike, I think of the epitome of the public servant," agreed Councilwoman Candace Andersen. "He was really there for the right reasons. It wasn't a stepping stone to higher office, it wasn't for accolades from the community, it's because he believed what he believed and he was there for the community."

She pointed to his service beyond the Town Council, working as a parks commissioner for four years.

"I think the community can be grateful for his role, especially in the area of parks. We have some of the most beautiful parks in the area and we can thank Mike for his part in that," she said.

As a council member, Mr. Shimansky also served on regional

boards, including the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Contra Costa Transit Authority and the San Ramon Valley Disaster Council. He was the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference appointee on the S.F. Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board and the East Bay Regional Park District Advisory Committee and the Elections Citizen Advisory Committee.

Mr. Shimansky is survived by his wife of 43 years, Sue; son Greg and daughters Lori and Cyndi; daughter-in-law Shannon and son-in-law Mark; and his beloved grandchildren Morgan, Luke, Paige, Payton and Michael.

Memorial services are pending. Condolences may be sent to the Danville Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way, Danville, CA 94526, and they will be forwarded to the Shimansky family. ■

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2009 Citizen of the Year: Deputy Elmer Glasser

Alamo Rotary honors deputy sheriff at Music and Wine Festival

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

One highlight of last Saturday's Alamo Music and Wine Festival was the naming of Deputy Sheriff Elmer Glasser as 2009 Citizen of the Year. The event is sponsored each fall by Alamo Rotary to raise money for music in the schools.

"I was honored, absolutely honored, for the award," said Glasser on Tuesday. "I feel connected to the residents of Alamo and Danville and Contra Costa County and would like to thank them for my years of service."



Glasser has been with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for 20 years and has been assigned to the Valley Station more than once. His current assignment has been longer than four years.

Besides law enforcement duties, he oversees the Sheriff's All Volunteer Extended Services (SAVES) program in Alamo, and has added extracurricular functions such as tours of county jail and San Quentin State Prison, and visits to firearms ranges.

"In 2009 we were fortunate to have many exceptional nominees who were very deserving of this recognition, and Elmer was the one who stood out among the very best," said festival sponsorship chairman Don Morton.

Glasser serves as a school resource officer at the three Alamo schools and teaches a class on core



Citizen of the Year Deputy Elmer Glasser is congratulated by (l-r) Bill Barley, Diane Barley and Don Morton. Glasser was named at the annual Alamo Wine and Music Festival Sept. 12. Organizers planned activities for area children that included face painting and climbing walls.

values to sixth-grade students at Stone Valley Middle School.

"I love working with the schools and residents as well as the business owners," Glasser said.

He also runs a Juvenile Diversion Program for youths who have done a misdeed, working with them and their families rather than sending them to Juvenile Hall.

And Glasser spearheads safety and security for Alamo events.

"He is always there for Alamo," said Morton. One resident who nominated Glasser said that he is



"someone who has had a tremendous impact on our community."

Glasser, who lives in Danville with his wife and three children, had family in attendance Saturday when his award was announced. He was also working at the festival.

Morton said that the 27th annual Music and Wine Festival had good attendance.

"I must admit that when I awoke to thunder and lightning and some sizeable rain drops I was a bit concerned about the success of the festival," he said. "However, it all came together and the weather actually during the afternoon couldn't have been better and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time."

"It is especially gratifying to see the children participating in the music program," he added. "We raised a great deal of money for the music programs at our schools and this year it seems that they will need more help than at any other time in the past."

Morton said that based on the sponsorships this year, he is expecting it to be the most successful ever. ■

Man in van causes alarm at school

Police investigating incident near Los Cerros Middle School

By GEOFF GILLETTE

A student walking home from Los Cerros Middle School recently reported that an unknown male in a white van followed him part of the way home from school.

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said they received a call from the student's parent shortly after 3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4, reporting the incident. According to the report, the young man was walking home from school in the Cameo Acres neighborhood when he noticed the white van slowly following him up the street.

The young man used his cell phone to contact his father, who directed the youth to go directly to a neighbor's home. The parent then

called police.

A squad car dispatched to the scene did not locate the van. The student described the driver as a white male wearing a red hat. A second person was sitting in the front seat, but the youth was unable to provide a description.

Police notified the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and a notice was sent home to parents in the area to inform them of the occurrence and warn students to be wary of strange vehicles in their neighborhoods.

The incident reported is similar to one that occurred recently in Pleasant Hill. Danville police investigators are working with Pleasant

Hill authorities to determine if they could be the same person or persons.

Williams lauded the youth's actions in immediately contacting one of his parents.

"He did exactly the right thing," he said. "Under no circumstances should you get in a car or follow a stranger."

Authorities suggest that parents establish a code word with their children in the event that someone else will be picking them up. Parents are urged to have good communication with the schools in such incidents and keep both students and teachers informed if there is a change in plans. ■

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TASSAJARA VALLEY

Continued from Page 5

project over the last few months, and town officials say they believe it will be completed sometime in the near future.

"It's only a matter of months before that will happen," assured Arnerich.

San Ramon Planning Director Phil Wong called on LAFCO to approve a request by the city to continue looking at extending its SOI into the Tassajara Valley.

"Our general plan requires us to look at the Tassajara Valley area," he explained. "You can't forecast when development is going to occur, but you know it is starting."

San Ramon City Manager Herb Moniz echoed Wong's comments, saying that they would like to see the commission either approve the extension of the SOI into the Tassajara Valley or an alternative plan that would include two small parcels within San Ramon's SOI.

"San Ramon has already requested and met with folks, and now LAFCO is going to enter another process, driven by LAFCO," Moniz said.

A spokesperson for Save Mount Diablo offered testimony during the public hearing as well. Troy Bristol addressed the commission, offering the group's support for deferring the SOI decision. He also said Save Mount Diablo is opposed to San Ramon's request to expand into the Tassajara Valley.

"We feel that an expansion of the sphere of influence

would be a breaking of the urban limit line and we ask you not to extend that sphere of influence," Bristol said.

LAFCO chairwoman Gayle Uilkema said that while she understood San Ramon's concerns, she felt that having the two municipalities sit down and talk with Contra Costa County seemed like a reasonable course.

"Normally having a conversation doesn't hurt," she stated. "And Danville has said it won't take too much longer."

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, sitting in as an alternate on the commission, agreed.

"This is an opportunity for the county and two cities to look at this with openmindedness," Piepho said.

She recommended that the three entities enter into a collaborative process before bringing the issue back to the commission.

Commissioners voted 7-0 in favor of deferring any decision on the sphere of influence until Danville finishes its general plan update and the three bodies are able to meet.

Afterward, Mayor Arnerich said he was pleased that Danville will have the opportunity to finish its general plan update and he feels that they will be able to meet and discuss with San Ramon the best way to approach the Tassajara Valley.

"There's a willingness on both parts that we may both adjust our spheres," said Arnerich. "But we have to wait and see where the planning and the process leads us." ■

PACK

Continued from Page 5

gertips it might keep them from getting the drugs."

Pack said initially he was uncertain about getting involved with the project, but it was something he felt strongly about pursuing.

"In some ways I certainly did not want to feel like an interloper into the State of California and the Department of Justice but on the other hand it was the memory of my children that was why I was involved. And that just means so much to me."

Four years ago, Pack approached former State Sen. Tom Torlakson and discussed the idea of creating a software system that could run over the Internet to provide a secure way for doctors and pharmacists to log in and check a patient's history.

In 2005, Torlakson created Senate Bill 734, which was the basis for the creation of CURES. It was signed into law in January 2006, but senators asked for more feasibility studies into the privacy of the system and its security.

The Pack Foundation spent \$15,000 on the report, which was completed in July 2007. An announcement was made by the Attorney General's office last year that the program was getting under way, which led to Tuesday's unveiling of CURES.

"We got the team, the technical people at the Department of Justice and we held meetings about the system," Pack explained. "I brought in some very good Silicon Valley engineers to kind of guide the work."

The system will be housed at the Department of Justice. Pack said they have protected the information behind both firewalls and electronic countermeasures to make sure all patient information is kept confidential. Funding for CURES comes from Department of Justice, Federal Grant programs and the Pack Foundation.

Federal statistics show that nearly 7 million Americans abuse prescription drugs, more than the number who abuse cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens Ecstasy and inhalants combined. Those figures show an 80 percent increase since 2000.

Following Tuesday's press conference, Pack said he was pleased that the system has gone live.



COURTESY OF BOB PACK
Bob and Carmen Pack of Danville join then State Senator Tom Torlakson in Sacramento as they push for the legislation needed to begin work on the CURES program, aimed at stopping prescription drug abuse

"It's great," he said, "a feeling of great accomplishment for all the people who've supported this over the years."

With the CURES system live, Pack said he will continue to work with them, improving the system and the speed with which pharmacies are able to enter information into the system.

Currently, once pharmacists fill a prescription, they have seven days to fax in the information, which is then entered into the database. The next iteration of CURES, said Pack, will be an electronic component that will put prescriptions directly into the database increasing real-time access.

Pack said that at the press conference much mention was made of high profile celebrity deaths like Michael Jackson and Heath Ledger that were related to prescription drugs. The question was asked whether the CURES system could have saved their lives.

"The answer is, we don't know," said Pack. "I think it's going to be valuable and save a lot of unknown lives — people who won't be able to abuse prescription drugs anymore." ■

LAFCO

Continued from Page 6

the recommendation and were ready to vote when Commissioner Helen Allen intervened.

"At this time while I hear there is a motion to support, I have my own ideas," she offered.

Allen said she felt she was not given enough information on the candidates and requested that in future discussions they be given all of the applications. She then moved that rather than simply approve Burke,

the commission vote on the finalists and let the candidate with the most votes become the alternate.

When no other commissioners seconded Allen's amendment it died and the commission voted 6-1 in favor of Burke.

A statement released by LAFCO read: "Ms. Burke has demonstrated a commitment to the community through her many years of involvement in community organizations."

Officials say Burke will be sworn in at the Oct. 14 meeting. Her term expires May 2012. ■

DIABLO VIEWS



By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The man in the drive-through

The other day I heard a wonderful story about a local high school principal who diffused an angry situation at the Burger King drive-through in Danville. What a great column, I thought. So I began to check out the facts.

It turns out that it did not happen at a Burger King or in Danville. And the high school principal was there when the story was told, but he was not involved in the incident. And this is why we check out facts before we print them in the newspaper.

But it was a great story and it was retold locally — in a sermon by Associate Pastor Mark Wollan at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville on Aug. 30 to be precise. Turns out that CPC has all its sermons on audio at its Web site and I was able to listen from home. So I will retell the story here.

Wollan read an account from a man who recalled being at a drive-through Starbucks one morning right before the Christmas holidays in 2007. There was a long line, and the driver behind him could not quite pull up to the speaker to place his order. He angrily honked his horn to make the man in front of him pull up but he couldn't because there was no place to go. He honked and honked in a very obnoxious manner as they proceeded to creep along toward the payment window.

The first man looked in the rear view mirror to check out the aggressor. "The face behind me was twisted in anger and hate," he related. "Then I looked in mirror and my face didn't look much different." This rattled him because he was a person who consciously worked for peace and balance in his life.

He knew he had three options. First of all, he could start a fight. Second, he could yield and beg the angry man for forgiveness. But he also knew there was a third door that could be opened, although usually the third option requires some creativity, which he managed to provide.

When it was his turn to pay he told the cashier that he'd like to pay for the guy behind him, too, and offered a \$10 bill. The cashier was surprised and said, "But he's a jerk." He said the man was just having a bad day and he'd like to pay for him.

"It's a random act of kindness?" asked the cashier. But the man responded, "Not really. I'm doing it for me." Then she told him the man behind him had ordered breakfast for five people and it would cost a lot more than \$10. So he pulled out his credit card and handed it over. "Are you sure?" asked the cashier. "Do it," he said. And he went on about his day.

Six hours later the man arrived home to an answering machine full of messages including a call from NBC. They had used the information on his credit card to find him and tell him that the chain of people paying for the car behind them had lasted far into the afternoon.

There are several lessons to be learned here. One is that the Starbucks in other places are much more elaborate than ours. The other is the lesson the pastor was imparting: to react to hatred with love. And that we need to be creative to turn a situation around when people approach us in a violent, negative way.

A few years ago random acts of kindness were all the rage. Especially at the Bay Bridge toll booths, people would pay for the car behind them and be very pleased to have done so. A Random Acts of Kindness Foundation was even begun in 1995 as a resource for people committed to spreading kindness.

But the Starbucks incident was a random act of consciousness rather than a random act of kindness. The man who first paid had done something for someone else, which also had turned him from an angry victim into a loving human being.

I love this lesson and can't wait to apply it. So if you see me on the street, please feel free to approach me in anger. I will try to be as creative as the man in the drive-through.

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

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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

Manager

Trina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

Eileen Lubow, Ext. 114

Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 120

Marcus Woodworth, Ext. 120

ADVERTISING

Advertising Sales Manager

Mary Hantos, Ext. 222

Account Executives

Andrea Heggelund, Ext. 232

Barbara Lindsey, Ext. 226

Inside Sales

Karen Klein, Ext. 122

Real Estate Sales

Nancy Taresh, Ext. 110

Ad Services

Trina Cannon, Ext. 130

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 837-8300

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@DanvilleWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@DanvilleWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail: circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com

Editorial e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

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LETTERS

Preventing firestorms

Dear Editor:

Since the 1991 Oakland Hills fire, which destroyed more than 3,000 homes, we have experienced many big fires in California. But we have not applied any preventative lessons from experience. Even the 2003 Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations were ignored. Again, we are experiencing firestorms in Southern California.

The redeveloped Oakland Hills homes are just as vulnerable as they were before the 1991 fire. The well-developed areas of Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville and San Ramon are also vulnerable.

I urge that State and Federal Laws be adopted regarding the following:

1. All buildings' exteriors, including homes, be constructed with fireproof material by using bricks, stones, stucco, steel and fireproof roof-tiles.
2. Heat/smoke sensitive automatic sprinkler systems be installed on the ceilings and the rooftops with an on/off switch outside the house/building.
3. Homes be surrounded only with evergreen shrubbery, not tall trees. The height of the trees be limited to the distance from the nearest building.
4. Only very low-density developments be allowed in the wind tunnel and other vulnerable areas, like hilly areas where, under emergency, easy movement is denied to the fire fighting equipment and the escaping residents.
5. During the dry or windy season

or days, no fire burning be allowed in the picnic areas or open areas. 6. State-of-the-art techniques be implemented to prevent fire from short-circuited or downed power lines.

To stay in business, insurance companies and fire districts must insist on preventative measures.

T.S. Khanna

Alamo

Single payer would be better

Dear Editor:

With the passing of Ted Kennedy, one of our greatest champions of health and social justice, we must work even harder to see to it that civilized, quality healthcare becomes a reality for all Americans. Let us all work to receive the same quality healthcare that our senators and congressmen receive.

Contrary to what you've been told, single payer healthcare is not only less expensive, but people of all ages get better healthcare throughout their lives. No longer would you be tied to a job because of health benefits. Now that's freedom!

There will be a showing of the film, "Sick Around the World," which demystifies single payer, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin. Sue Bergman from Healthcare For All (California's single payer movement) will speak after the film. Come and see for yourself how wonderful America would be if we stopped listening to the insurance companies.

Paulette Kenyon

Pleasanton

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Reaching out

D anville Councilman Michael Shimansky, who died Tuesday, will be memorialized for many things. We at the Danville Weekly will remember him for reaching out to others.

He understood from the beginning the importance of a community newspaper because he was a communicator. He always knew to call us when he wanted to get word out to the public about news or an event he wanted to promote.

In 2007, when he was mayor, Mr. Shimansky started his popular Mayor's Coffees at 7:30 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. This was one more way he made himself accessible to the residents of Danville and the area. As each new Mayor takes their turn in the rotation they have continued this practice, which has been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between government and community.

Able to retire young he sought out the ways in which he could be of service to this community and he made that commitment work on levels that many of us never even dream of. The Danville Parks Commission, Town Council, Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Contra Costa Transit Authority and San Ramon Valley Disaster Council all felt his presence.

Shimansky reached out in more ways than can be counted. He touched the lives of countless Danville youth through his involvement in sports, coaching and refereeing soccer, working with the Boy Scouts, working on Primo's Run. He played Santa to many each year at the Veterans Hall, keeping the wonder and magic of the holiday alive for many.

There are few of Danville's future generation that have not been impacted in some way by the man Mayor Newell Arnerich describes as "Mr. Danville".

The Danville community owes a debt it can never repay to Mike Shimansky, and its gratitude should extend to this life long servant's family as well. Sue Shimansky, his wife of 42 years, and their children Greg, Lori and Cyndi shared him with thousands of Danville residents every day for over two decades.

If Mike Shimansky's life has any lesson for us, let it be that of reaching out, taking part and being a member of a community in the truest sense of the word.

GUEST OPINION

BY TONY CARNEMOLLA

The story of the new Veterans Hall

As Commander of VFW Post 75, I and other members want to express our gratitude to the Danville Town Council for its support of the new Veterans Hall. We have met with architects, campaign committees and about six more committees. The Town Council has given undivided attention to all individuals who wished to comment. Overall, the speakers were satisfied and comfortable with the progress and design of the building. Many who saw the plans and pictures of what the Veterans Hall will look like upon completion have said what a beautiful building it will be.

Let's go back about four-and-a-half years. A group of us veterans along with a member of the Town Council were having coffee at the Rising Loafer, and the conversation was about our previous meeting when we had had to carry a World

War II veteran up the stairs. The conversation continued: Wouldn't it be great to have a new Veterans Hall like the one in Lafayette? There and then we put \$5 each into the pot to get the project on the road. The Danville Veterans Memorial Building at the time belonged to the County, and the veterans groups leased the building for \$1 per year. Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion sub-leased the building to the Town of Danville for \$200 per month; the Town paid for improvements, insurance, maintenance and upkeep, which is why it is always neat and clean.

At first we looked at many locations hoping someone would donate land and that with the sale of the veterans building we would be able to construct a new building. When we were unable to find a new parcel, we decided that we had the best location right where we were in Downtown Danville, so the groups involved with this project approached the County and the Town. The County sold the building and the land to the Town with

the agreement that it would always be for veterans and veterans groups. The Town met with all of our committees and, working together, we are now at the phase of observing our ideas become a reality.

The existing Veterans Hall has a lot of memories. Built in 1925, it has more than served its purpose. To remodel the building would be an expensive project. To install an elevator, make the building earthquake safe and up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards would be a big expense. The building will be increased from 6,600 to 12,700 square feet. The decision was made to keep the front as original as possible and redesign the entire building. It will be much larger with more seating and space for more than one group to meet at a time. The main large hall will be for banquets, weddings and various events. The Senior Citizens will have more room for their meetings and events, with a larger kitchen and the amenities of a new building.

There has been some controversy about the trees. One only has to look and see that the roots are above ground and extend under the building; upon demolition of the building they will have considerable damage. It is best to deal

with the problem before construction. After construction, removal would be costly and may cause damage to the new building.

There are a multitude of people to thank for this project. The Town has been very respectful to the veterans needs, and has dedicated \$5.2 million to this project. The veterans have agreed to raise an additional \$3 million. To view the plans, call me at 820-5750, or if you would like to be involved in this project please call me and we can arrange to have you attend one of our sessions.

Hopefully, there will be many of our current veterans still around to see this project become a reality. It will be a place for them to meet and get involved with veterans events. When completed, it will be a benefit for all veterans of all wars, and for our young people returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world. It will be the shining star of Danville for another 100 years.

Tony Carnemolla, an Alamo resident who owns Dad's Locksmith in Danville, is Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 75. He is president of the Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee of San Ramon Valley.

Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN

K-9 unit tracks tagger in creek

An 18-year-old Danville man suspected in several incidents of vandalism was arrested last week after being tracked down by a Danville Police Department K-9 unit.

Lt. Mark Williams said that on Thursday, Sept. 10, Officer Mike Ireland and his service dog Donna were patrolling behind Green Valley Center in the 400 block of Diablo Road. Reports say Ireland spotted spray-painted graffiti that had not been at the location when he had swung by earlier in his patrol.

Williams said Ireland drove around the shopping area looking for suspects and came across a backpack that contained cans of spray paint. There were still traces of paint in the area, so the officer released his service dog

from the patrol car and used her to track the scent from the backpack.

Their course took them back behind the mall area, where there was a creek and dense vegetation. Reports say Donna indicated that the trail went into the creek.

A few moments later, a man identified as Robert Carpenter emerged from the creek. The report shows that Carpenter had paint on his hands matching the graffiti, and he later admitted to tagging the building.

Carpenter was taken into custody and charged with one count of misdemeanor vandalism before being released.

Williams said further charges could be filed, as Carpenter is suspected of other cases of vandalism of businesses in the area.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, Sept. 6

- Forged prescription drugs on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at northbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:11 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting at Bolero Dr. and Greenbrook Dr. at 6:21 p.m.
- Suspicious subject on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 7:08 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting at El Cajon Dr. and Santiago Dr. at 9:08 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on 500 block of Bobbie Dr. at 9:16 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on 800 block of Matadera Circle at 9:17 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 200 block of San Rey Pl. at 9:31 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 200 block of Jasmine Way at 10:46 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 7

- Suspicious subject stop at Diablo Rd. and Richard Lane at 1:44 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:10 a.m.
- Suspicious subject on 1000 block of Hill Meadow Pl. at 4:40 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Park and Ride at 4:54 a.m.
- Reckless driving at northbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:56 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on 400 block of Diablo Rd. at 10:29 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 1400 block of Fountain Springs Circle at 11:47 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

- Grand theft on 700 block of Contada Circle at 10:50 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 1:13 p.m.
- Petty theft on 400 block of Front St. at 1:45 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 900 block of Camino Ramon at 2:44 p.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Glen Valley Circle at 2:46 p.m.
- Fraud on 100 block of Lomitas Rd. at 2:59 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 600 block of Diablo Rd. at 3:02 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on 100 block

of Hermosa Ct. at 5:43 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

- Drunk in public at Sycamore Valley Rd. and Tunbridge Rd. at 1:01 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 3:11 a.m.
- Runaway juvenile on 100 block of Haskins Ranch Circle at 10:30 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route on 400 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:44 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 500 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:05 a.m.
- Fraudulent document forgery on 100 block of Highbridge Ct. at 11:58 a.m.
- Vandalism on 1000 block of Diablo Rd. at 12:26 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage at Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 1:22 p.m.
- Battery on 100 block of Lawnview Circle at 2:05 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on 500 block of Old Orchard Dr. at 2:56 p.m.
- Fraudulent document forgery on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 3:04 p.m.
- Battery on 100 block of St. Ramon Ct. at 3:32 p.m.
- Obtaining drugs with forged prescription on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 7:43 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 1000 block of Lehigh Valley Circle at 10:19 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at northbound I-680 and Diablo Rd. at 12:16 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage at Ackerman Dr. and Diablo Rd. at 7:27 a.m.
- Vandalism on 100 block of Gardner Pl. at 8:43 a.m.
- Grand theft on 100 block of Sandpebble Ct. at 9:25 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on 100 block of Franciscan Dr. at 9:47 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 300 block of Diablo Rd. at 10:02 a.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Chateau Ct. at 10:28 a.m.
- Battery, arrest, on 100 block of Del Amigo Rd. at 11:55 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 100 block of Del Amigo Rd. at 1:16 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 600 block of Diablo Rd. at 3:02 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on 100 block

block of Danville Blvd. at 2:10 p.m.

- Petty theft on 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 2:28 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on 1700 block of South Clear Creek Pl. at 5:24 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 11:52 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 11

- Auto burglary on 300 block of Ilo Lane at 7:45 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 400 block of Diablo Rd. at 7:57 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 100 block of Pulido Rd. at 8:38 a.m.
- Drugs violation on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 10:47 a.m.
- Animal Cruelty on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:47 a.m.
- Credit Card fraud on 500 block of Old Orchard Dr. at 12:19 p.m.
- Grand theft on 400 block of Railroad Ave. at 1:17 p.m.
- Grand theft on 300 block of Diablo Rd. at 3:51 p.m.
- Grand theft on 400 block of La Gonda Way at 5:38 p.m.
- Missing juvenile on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 7:22 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on 700 block of Brookside Dr. at 8:16 p.m.
- Reckless driving on 100 block of Joaquin Dr. at 9:18 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on 500 block of Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 11:19 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

- Suspicious vehicle stop at Sycamore Park and Ride at 4:45 a.m.
- Reckless driving on 500 block of El Capitan Dr. at 7:11 a.m.
- Residential burglary on 200 block of San Rey Pl. at 7:15 a.m.
- Threats disturbance on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:51 a.m.
- Vandalism at Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:16 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop at Camino Ramon and San Thomas Way at 3:17 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run at El Capitan Dr. and Silver Lake Dr. at 3:39 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on 100 block of Trish Ct. at 6:08 p.m.
- Battery at Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:14 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Ramon Valley, Inc, 115 Town and Country Drive, Suite A, Danville 94526.

Anthony L. Silva

Anthony L. Silva who was once a farmer in the Pocket Area, passed away Aug. 19 at the age of 102.

He is survived by his children Antoinette and Timothy, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at St. Mary's Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek.

Saraphina Texeira

Saraphina Texeira, a resident of Danville, died Aug. 22 at the age of 92.

She was born in Oakland on Feb. 22, 1917. She was an excellent cook, a lover of dogs and cats, a gardener and artistic in sewing. She belonged to a ladies crafts group for many years. She was active with her husband Herb in the Knights of Columbus for 30 years where they formed many long and lasting friendships.

She predeceased by her husband, Herb; and her three siblings. She is survived by her daughters, Priscilla Buchman (Bob) and Marcella Miranda (Ken), one granddaughter, one great-grandson, and friends in the Bay Area and Northern California.

Services were private and arranged through Tradition Care, Pleasant Hill. Donations may be made in Sara's memory to the Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523.

Ardeth Ann Smith

Ardeth Ann Smith, a resident of Danville, died Aug. 30, at the age of 76, surrounded by 19 of her loved ones. She was diagnosed just a year ago with lung cancer from asbestos exposure.

She was born Nov. 6, 1932. She dedicated herself in the early years to raising her three sons and later pursued her own education in preparation for a career in the public school system. First in Arcadia and later after the move to Contra Costa County in 1981, she distinguished herself by her dedication and industry. She retired from the Orinda School District after 20 years of service. She then volunteered at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, Discovery Counseling Center and The Station in Danville. In her final weeks, she made sure her work for the Discovery Counseling Center was completed.

She was preceded in death by her grandson Luke Michael Smith. She is survived by her dear husband of 58 years, Bob; son Steven, his wife Lorraine and their five children; son James, his wife Cory and their four surviving children; and son Jeffrey, his wife Leziel and their two children.

A celebration of her life and sharing of memories was held Sept. 14 at Canyon Creek Church. Donations may be made to Canyon Creek Church, 9015 S. Gale Road, San Ramon 94582, or Discovery Counseling Center of the San

David J. Stochl

Danville resident David J. Stochl died Sept. 1 at the age of 51.

He was born Nov. 11, 1957, in Minnesota and came to the East Bay Area at age 13. He attended Del Valle High School and began his career with Moraga-Orinda Fire District in 1984. He reluctantly retired as a captain after 24 years of dedicated service after a diagnosis of brain cancer. He loved racing cars, boats, and motorcycles, especially NASCAR and restoring Ford Falcons.

He was preceded in death by his father James E. Stochl and mother Marion Pierce. He is survived by his wife, Karen Carnegie-Stochl; daughters Chrissy, Andrea, Rene, and Lauren; and brother Jim.

A memorial service was held Sept. 12 at East Bay Fellowship in Danville. Donations can be made to The Wellness Community and National Brain Tumor Society.

Sydney Kossen

Sydney Kossen, a resident of Danville, died Sept. 2 at the age of 93.

He was born in Seattle, the last of seven children, to Jewish immigrant parents from Eastern Europe. He attended Garfield High School and the University of Washington where he was editor of the campus newspaper.

He served as a U.S. Naval gunnery officer in the Pacific during World War II and participated in the liberation of China. As a reporter and editor with the Examiner, he covered California politics in Sacramento and spent his summers at the Capitol in Washington. He spent more than four decades in journalism, including 24 years at the San Francisco Examiner where he became political editor. He interviewed U.S. presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. He was a tough journalist, but earned the respect and eventual friendship of California politicians such as Pat Brown, Willie Brown, Phil Burton, Dianne Feinstein, and Eugene McAtee. He never became friends with Richard Nixon, however, who demanded that he be fired for his writing about the then-California gubernatorial candidate; the Examiner sided with him. After retiring from journalism in 1982, he moved from his San Francisco home in the Sunset district to Walnut Creek, where he lived an active life of golf, swimming and travel with his wife. He enjoyed following the sport of politics until his final days.

He is survived by his wife Jeannette; two children, Barbara Margolis (Dr. Lawrence) of Hillsborough and Michael Kossen (Barbara) of Lakeport; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 9 at the Home of Peace Cemetery in Colma. Contributions may be made to The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, 4000 Camino Tassajara, Danville 94506.

See **OBITUARIES** on Page 11

OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 10

Agnes 'Cele' Simpson

Agnes Simpson Agnes "Cele" Simpson, a longtime resident of Danville, died Sept. 8 at the age of 87.



She was born July 21, 1922, in Richmond, Va., the fourth of seven children. As a young woman, she enjoyed playing with her siblings and cousins in Fonticello Park. She excelled at tennis, which gave rise to her scover-girl shot in DuPont Magazine holding her racquet. Her life changed dramatically when a handsome young sailor named Daniel J. Simpson sailed into port in Virginia. After just three dates he proposed to her and swept her off to a new life in California. They settled happily in the Bay Area; first in San Francisco, and then in the Walnut Creek and Danville area where they raised their four children and nurtured their eight grandchildren. After Dan died 10 years ago, she continued to stay active by bowling, swimming and playing tennis, and making friends at the Danville and San Ramon senior centers.

She is survived by her children,

Mary (Furlong), Dan, Diane, and Tim; son and daughters-in-law Furlong, Sara Simpson, and Laure Simpson; and her sister (Sister Mary Leo).

A rosary was held Sept. and the memorial service was held Sept. 12 at St. Isidore's Church. Donations can be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia.

Phillip D. Perry Jr.

Phillip D. Perry Jr., a resident of Danville, died Sept. 9 at the age of 51.

He was born in Alameda on Dec. 16, 1957, and grew up in Alamo. He attended San Ramon Valley High, then San Diego State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts. He loved all types of sports including baseball, football and golf. He was also a member of the San Diego State rowing team. He was a self-employed custom carpenter and was a master at his craft. He loved planting his vegetable garden in the spring. He will be missed by his extended family and many friends.

He is survived by his mother Shirley Perry, sister Valerie Chivello, niece Breanne Chivello, all of Danville.

A celebration of life was held Sept. 12 at the family home.

'Kids should learn what they need to learn and still have a life.'

READ MORE/COMMENT

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SUN 9/27 2-6pm in the Gardens ★ THE LOST CATS

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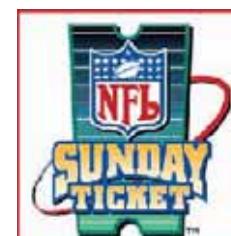
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Chelsea's Hope

A lifeline for families struck by a rare adolescent disease

By SUSAN ASTBURY

Chelsea Gerber was a vivacious adolescent who loved soccer, dance, baseball, band and hanging out with her friends.

"She just wanted to do it all," recalls her mother, Linda Gerber.

When Chelsea, now 18, was in middle school, Linda noticed that she was having small cognitive issues but thought that she just needed a little help.

"Then at the end of eighth grade, when Chelsea was 14-1/2 she had a grand mal seizure in front of school," said Gerber. "The first four months after Chelsea had her first seizure were relatively OK. She started high school at Monte Vista in September — and then a month later, she didn't go back."

Her health deteriorated rapidly, Linda explained. "The seizures became out of control and she lost her cognitive ability very, very quickly."

Linda and Howard, Chelsea's dad, took her to Children's Hospital Oakland to see a pediatric neurologist. After several tests, the doctor suggested checking for Lafora. The test for this rare disease had only been around for five or six years.

"Our doctor said this is the name of the disease but don't look it up," Linda recalled. "On the Internet, there were about three sentences and it was just all devastating."

The test came back positive for Lafora, a rare, progressive and degenerative form of epilepsy that strikes children in early adolescence. Inherited through recessive genes, Lafora causes seizures, muscle spasms, difficulty in walking, dementia and is eventually fatal. Most therapy is primarily aimed at reducing seizures.

"When the progression starts, it starts quickly," said Linda. "So Chelsea's day-to-day activity after four-and-a-half years since her first seizure is quite different."

Linda's day typically starts at 7:30 a.m. when she begins giving Chelsea her medications and nutrition through a gastrostomy tube. "While she can still swallow, she doesn't take in enough," Linda said. "The thought process is difficult to do all that."

Most of the time, Chelsea is still sleeping. "She's lying in bed, very dream-like and kind of checking out her room, very toddler like," said Linda. "If you can imagine a baby in a crib, that's how she is."

"Chelsea was always very, very healthy, walking before she was 1, a chatterbox, reading at 4, just your normal average young girl," recalled Linda. "Before, Chelsea was very independent and now she's 100 percent dependent."

She added, "The only thing that she can do on her own is enjoy music and only because she can still hear it."



COURTESY GERBER FAMILY

Chelsea Gerber plays Mustang soccer in 2002.

Chelsea's body clock is much like that of other teenagers and she can't fall asleep until about 11:30 p.m. "Even if we get her upstairs and in bed, there's still a 45-minute to one-hour process of getting her ready to go to sleep."

Often, Chelsea will wake up in the middle of the night if she's uncomfortable, has seizure activity or has to go to the bathroom. "Sometimes, it's four to five times between mid-

night and 6:30 in the morning," said Linda. "It's like going back to having a baby that wakes up and needs you in the middle of the night."

Chelsea wakes up at around 11 a.m., and Linda washes her face and brushes her teeth while she's in her hospital bed.

"I try to be as upbeat as I can when I'm doing all this. We turn on music, dance, sing and carry on. She's a good little team player," said Linda. "I tell her, 'Chelsea and mommy are a team.' She's generally very good spirited, but sometimes when she wakes up, she's blue and gets weepy and sad."

While some families tell their children that they have Lafora, the Gerbers' doctor advised against it.

"Our doctor said that it's much more difficult on those around the child affected than it is actually on the child," Linda explained. "There is obviously sadness and frustration on her part but because the brain is involved, it now affects her differently. She does say things like, 'I'm dying or am I dead?'"

If Linda can get Chelsea up and walking, she takes her into the bathroom to put on her clothes. "It's easier to do it when she's sitting up than dressing her in bed." Afterward they do a range of motion exercises.

Through funding from the state, nurse's assistants come to the Gerber house for 40 hours a week to help with Chelsea's care.

"It gives me a break and allows me to get out of the house and run my errands," said Linda. Otherwise she pretty much stays with Chelsea all day. Dad Howard is a mortgage broker and works at home so he can help, too. Brother Colin, 22, attends the University of Oregon.

"I don't like to leave her alone in her bedroom if she's awake," said Linda, "even though she's extremely limited in anything she can do."

In the afternoon, Linda tries to do an activity that will entertain them. "Basically we stick around the house and try to find some things to do. We finger paint, play with shaving cream and play ball. It's all very simple stuff. Everything takes a long time and before we know it, it's 6 p.m. The day goes by kind of quickly — or painstakingly slow."

Linda said that one of her challenges is finding simple things that might be fun for Chelsea even if she really can't participate.

"The other day I got in bed with Chelsea with all the markers and put a big white board across our laps and gave her markers and we just played," noted Linda. "But it's getting more and more difficult. While she can still have fun with that, she also gets bored."

The Lafora children

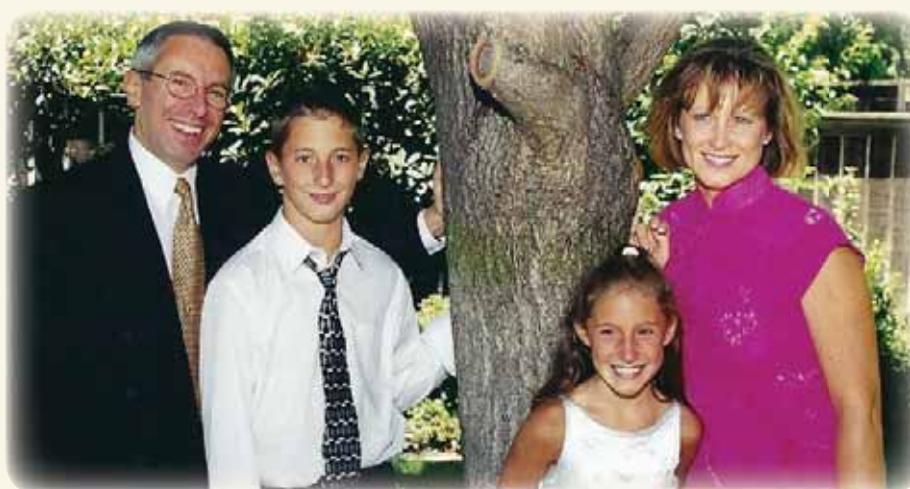
Professional photographer Cheryl Bigman joined Chelsea's Hope with a vision to bring awareness and assist with fundraising through creating a photo exhibit to display all the images of "the Lafora children" that they have connected with in the United States.

"Sometimes I went alone and sometimes Linda went with me to take the photos," said Cheryl, who donated her time and services. "It was an incredible experience to meet children at different stages and see the progression of the disease."

"The one thing that the families had in common is that they felt completely alone in the world until they found Chelsea's Hope. Now they had a place to talk to other people," she said.

Visit the Web site at www.chelseashope.org. For donations for the Gerber family, contact Linda Stolow at 838-8885.

Bigman's work can be seen at www.cherylbigrmanphoto.com.



A Gerber family when Chelsea was 10 years old, with father Howard, mother Linda and big brother Colin.

"Even though it's tragic what is happening to Chelsea, we still have to work every day to bring joy to her life because it's still her life," she explained. "We just couldn't shut our doors and windows and stay home. We had to eventually share and invite people to be part of our life because this is our life."

As Chelsea became more infirm, the Gerbers lost contact with many friends but they have formed new lifelong bonds with others. One day, Barb Goldsmith re-entered their lives.

Barb had known Linda and Howard since they all belong to Beth Chaim synagogue and had heard that Chelsea was ill.

"My memory of her was this darling little sprite who was 3 years old running around my house at a party," recalled Barb. "I wanted to do something but didn't know what."

She e-mailed Howard, who invited her to come over. "I decided to make a big tray of cookies and left that day and never asked the name of the disease," Barb said. "When I got home we made the decision as a family that we were in this for the long haul. This is not something that anybody should have to go through and certainly not alone."

After a couple of months, Barb arranged to meet researchers at UCLA to find out about starting a foundation and raising funds. She learned that there were others in the country and in the world coping with Lafora, and that she needed to form a nonprofit organization plus start a Web site to educate others and share information. Almost two years ago, Chelsea's Hope was officially launched, and quickly other families became involved.

"We wanted to do bios on other kids as well as Chelsea," Barb said. "It was called Chelsea's Hope but it was really hope for all these kids."

Donations to Chelsea's Hope benefit the Lafora's Children's Research Fund at UCLA to further research and improve treatments and find a cure. To date it has raised more than \$150,000.

"I can honestly say that I wouldn't be as good as I am today without Chelsea's Hope," said Michele Ambrose from Pennsylvania, whose 15-year-old daughter Jessica was diagnosed in 2008. "It's not like the American Cancer Society where there is already a network. People who understand can offer advice. Even friends and family can't understand. I don't know what I would have done without Linda and Barb and to be able to talk to other people."

Dr. Berge Minassian, staff neurologist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, has been working on Lafora research since 1993 when he was doing his residency at UCLA.

"There are only about 12 cases in the United States and 200 documented cases worldwide, and the chances of contracting the disease are about one in a million," he said. Referred to as an "orphan disease," Lafora currently receives little or no government funding.

"Chelsea's Hope has been fantastic and special," said Minassian. "Lafora is so rare, it's very hard to form a cohesive group to raise money. While their children are alive,

parents don't have the energy to devote to fundraising."

Dr. Antonio Delgado-Escueta, professor of Neurology at UCLA, and his team are developing two treatment approaches, gene therapy and getamicin treatment.

"The research that is being conducted at the Hospital for Sick Children is focusing on stem cell replacement and gene therapy," Minassian explained.

"It's taken a couple of years for me to develop the strength to be able to talk about it without just crying," said Linda. "The relationships that we have created in joining people on our Web site and personally the level of intimacy that gets crossed over is mind boggling."

"This whole thing is much bigger than me, it's bigger than us," she added. "I just feel that we're at the start and the ball is rolling."

Linda advises others to reach out like her family, not to worry about infringing on their privacy.

"The most important thing is to just show up and say, 'I don't know what to say.' I would like people to go out of their comfort zone and extend a hand and be there for anybody who has a tragedy. But be there in person," she said.

"People will call and say, 'What can I do?'" said Barb. "That puts the onus on Linda and Howard. Call them and say, 'I'm doing my marketing tomorrow and I'm going to pick up stuff and make dinner for you.'"

The Gerbers need to move Chelsea's bedroom downstairs and modify the bathroom to make it handicapped accessible. "Going up and down the winding stairs is treacherous at best," said Linda. "Howard carries her a lot of the times. I just think we're all going to end up at the bottom of the stairs one day."

Linda Stolow, owner of Small-Fry Shoppe, a children's consignment store in Danville, stepped in to lend a helping hand to raise funds for the bathroom renovation. "Catastrophic illnesses can play havoc with one's finances," Stolow said.

After meeting Linda Gerber, Stolow decided to set up an account for Chelsea's Hope and has raised more than \$500 from donations of children's clothing, toys and other items. She's also elicited participation from other downtown stores, including Something Old, Something New.

"My theory is that this is Chelsea's life and we have to help live it whatever way that is," said Linda Gerber. "And it's our life and we can't just always stay secluded. That's another reason why we need to move Chelsea downstairs so that when we have friends come over, she is part of it."

"You never know in life," she added. "You think that you have two beautiful healthy children on a Monday, and on Tuesday your life changes. So anybody who thinks that couldn't be them better take a second and realize that 'but for the grace of God' it certainly could be. That's my take from this whole thing."

Although Chelsea has been stricken by a devastating disease requiring 24-hour care, her glowing eyes reflect the love and devotion of her parents. They are committed to making the best out of each day of Chelsea's life. And improving the lives of others. ■



CHERYL BIGMAN/WWW.CHERYLBIGMANPHOTO.COM
Chelsea in her back yard in August; family and friends refer to her wheelchair as her "chariot."



CHERYL BIGMAN/WWW.CHERYLBIGMANPHOTO.COM
Chelsea dances to her favorite Justin Timberlake music in the family room in February.



SUSAN ASTBURY
Chelsea, with mom Linda and dad Howard, reacts enthusiastically to the mention of Justin Timberlake and Johnny Depp, two of her favorites.

Calendar

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

Art

ART IN THE PARK From paintings and ceramics to photography and jewelry, Danville's Art in the Park offers a rare opportunity to find one-of-a-kind works and will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 3-4, on Town Green in front of the library, 400 Front St., Danville. Proceeds help provide grants for elementary and middle school art programs in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. This event is free. Visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

CALL FOR ART ENTRIES The Kevin Milligan Gallery has a call for entries to the upcoming October 17th juried exhibit titled, 'Imagine California Image.' Artists working in, painting, mixed media and collage may now submit 3 entries on CD. Deadline is Saturday, Sept. 19. Send to Kevin Milligan Gallery, 408 Hartz Ave., Danville. Philip Linhares, Chief

Curator of the Oakland Museum is the juror. Cost is \$40 to apply. Call 309-4648 or e-mail kevin@kevinmilangallery.com.

WINE TASTING AT KEVIN MILLIGAN GALLERY The Kevin Milligan Gallery is hosting a wine tasting from 5-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at 408 Hartz Ave., Danville. The acclaimed wine of Bennett Lane Winery will be featured. Enjoy Los Carneros Reserve 2007 Chardonnay. Taste 90 point rated 2005 Napa Valley Red Feasting Wine and Maximus 2007 White Feasting Wine. This event is free. Call 309-4648.

Auditions

SAN RAMON COMMUNITY THEATER AUDITIONS San Ramon Community Theater Auditions for "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)" to be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 and 7 p.m.,

Monday, Sept. 28 at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Need 3 actors, any gender, must be 18 years or older. Call 389-7529

Author Visit

'THE SLIPPERY YEAR: A MEDITATION ON HAPPILY EVER AFTER' Melanie Gideon will be discussing and signing her new book, "The Slippery Year: A Meditation of Happily Ever After" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22 at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. This event is free. Call 837-7337.

DAVID SMALL IN CONVERSATION WITH JON AGEE David Small will be discussing and signing his new book, "Stitches: A Memoir," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24 at Rakestraw Books, 522 Hartz Ave., Danville. The prize-winning children's author depicts a childhood from hell in this searing yet

redemptive graphic memoir. This event is free. Call 837-7337.

GIGLIANO HAZAN TO DISCUSS, 'GIGLIANO HAZAN'S THIRTY MINUTE PASTA' Giuliano Hazan will be discussing and signing his new book, "Giuliano Hazan's Thirty Minute Pasta" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at Mangia Mi, 406, Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$15. Call 837-7337.

Camps

SRVHS DANCE CAMP This dance camp is for elementary and middle school dancers, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19. Cost to raise money to send dance team to the Orange Bowl is \$60 per dancer, includes three classes, a T-shirt, snacks and a performance at the end of the day in the theater. E-mail cmacphail@srvhs.org.

Clubs

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

BUENA VISTA AUXILIARY OF ASSISTANCE LEAGUE Buena Vista Auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that operates the Buena Vista Tutorial Program. Attend a New Member Orientation at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 2711 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. Visit www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

HEALTHCARE REFORM FORUM Speakers will include Ellen R. Shaffer, Co-Director of the Center for Policy Analysis which sponsors The EQUAL campaign for Equitable, quality, universal, affordable health reform; Karl Keener, a lawyer involved with volunteer community service; Linda Leu, of Health Access and Health Care for America Now. From 7-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21 at IBEW 595, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. This event is free. Call 451-4303 or visit www.traivalleydems.com.

Events

BLUE STAR MOMS GARAGE SALE

The Blue Star Moms are having a huge garage sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Church of the Valley, 19001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 648-1549 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

CATHOLICS AT WORK BREAKFAST

Catholics@Work is proud to announce Pat McCaskey, Special Projects Director of the Chicago Bears and Chairman of Sports Faith International, as the featured speaker at its breakfast event, 7 a.m. (mass is offered at 6:30 a.m.), Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Crow

Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. To register visit www.catholicsatwork.org.

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

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

EUGENE O'NEILL FESTIVAL Immerse yourself in an American literary legend at Danville's Eugene O'Neill Festival, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-27, at various locations. The celebration will include live theater performances, seminars, exhibits, tours and more. To learn more visit www.eugeneoneill.org or call 820-1818.

FATHER FRANK'S KIDS FIESTA Please join Father Frank's Kids for its 3rd annual Fiesta and Pequeno Tour featuring the children of Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos. Activities include a silent auction, carnival style games, and a spectacular musical performance. Begins with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by the Fiesta. Saturday, Oct. 3 at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Get tickets at www.fatherfrankskids.org or call 360-1060.

HARVEST TIME FOR EDIBLE SUCCULENTS The Ruth Bancroft Garden will host its 7th annual Fruit Tasting Tour at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 1552 Bancroft Rd., North Entrance, Walnut Creek. Join Horticulture Director Brian Kemble for a walking tour of The Ruth Bancroft Garden at harvest time. Cost is \$15 per person or \$10 for members. Reserve your spot by Friday, Sept. 25. Call 944-9352 or visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

HOLLYWOOD IN PLEASANTON 35 movies were made in Pleasanton between 1910 and 1943. The Museum on Main is presenting an opportunity to see reenactments of scenes from four of those silent films. From 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 20 at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. The red carpet is from 1 - 1:30 p.m.; silent movies are from 1:30 - 4 p.m.; and live performances from 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for children 12 and under. Call 577-8802 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

OKTOBER FEST Discover Danville will host Oktober Fest from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8, in downtown Danville, the Livery and the Rose Garden. Enjoy beer and food tastings at different restaurants. Visit www.discoverdanvilleca.com.

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PREVIEW KEN BURNS' 'THE NATIONAL PARKS' Preview the highly anticipated PBS Film by Ken Burns', "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." The series traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years, 4-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Free.

WALKING TOURS OF DANVILLE Karen Stepper will host walking tours of historic downtown Danville at 6:15 p.m., every third Friday of every month, meeting at Village Theater, 233 Front St. Patty Dobbins will host walking tours starting at 10 a.m., on the second Saturday of every month, meeting at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Tours are from April through October. Cost is \$3 per person. Call 837-3750.

Exhibits

LEROY PARKER EXHIBIT Leroy Parker takes a wild approach to his abstract work; images from the golden age of Jazz, wood cut-outs, and handmade paper. He often uses layering to suggest the complexities of the human experience, and encourages a deeper look at each piece. This event takes place 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and runs through Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Lindsay Dirk Brown Gallery in San Ramon. Free admission. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramon.ca.gov.

THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY PRESENTS QUILTS!

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

Film

SCREENING OF 'PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL' 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell' is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades-old civil war. From 7-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$7. Call 933-7850 or visit praythedevilbacktohell.com.

SPECIAL SCREENING OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S 'THE BIRDS' AT ORINDA SQUARE THEATER Enjoy a special screening of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds", 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, 2 Orinda Theater Square. Tippi Hedren is expected to make a special appearance to share inside stories on the making of the movie. Tickets are on sale for \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Admission includes screening of the movie and Q&A with Ms. Hedren. There is also a \$125 dinner package

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



limited to the first 25 people. Visit www.caiff.org or call 277-1355.

Fundraisers

2009 LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK

Join Bay Area residents for a celebratory evening to raise funds for blood cancer research with a two-mile walk starting in Civic Park in Walnut Creek. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light The Night Walk is a festive fundraising event for all ages featuring live music, entertainment, food and refreshments. From 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3 at 1375 Civic Dr. For information call (415)625-1126 or visit www.lightthenight.org/sf.

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

BAY AREA BUDDY WALK Join the fourth annual Buddy Walk to support the Down Syndrome Connection of Bay Area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11 at Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. One mile walk to celebrate individuals with Down Syndrome. Includes live band, children's activities, hot dog lunch, great drawing. Can register online or in person. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Call 362-8660.

BORGES RANCH BBQ AND AUCTION This fundraiser benefits George, a seven-year old German Shepherd mix who was battered, suffered a gun shot wound and then was left in the Martinez Shelter. Live music featuring Harry Liedstrand and the "Boys." From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at Old Borges Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd., Walnut Creek. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids. Call 943-5860.

'The Hero': Come and celebrate fine art and wine from 5-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Kevin Milligan Gallery, 408 Hartz Ave., Danville. Bennett Lane Winery of Calistoga will pour a selection of excellent red and white wine. It's also a chance to see "The Hero" by sculptor Bill Carmel, the first from his series, "The Hero Lives in Danville." Call 309-4648 or visit kevin@kevinmilligan-gallery.com.

p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at Diablo Country Club, One Clubhouse Rd., Diablo. Cost is \$250 per ticket. Call 933-0107.

Kids and Teens

FOOTSTEPS SUPPORT GROUP

Hospice of the East Bay will host a six-week support group for grieving children and their adult caregivers from 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 29-Nov. 3, at the Pleasant Hill location, 3470 Buskirk Ave. Pre-registration is required; call 887-5681.

FOOTSTEPS SUPPORT GROUP

Hospice of the East Bay will host a support group for children and teens called "Footsteps" from 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 29-Nov. 3, at the Hospice offices, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. This group is offered for a fee, but is waived for those who cannot afford it. Call 887-5678.

FREE ONLINE TUTORING AVAILABLE

Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>

KIDS CIRCLE AND TEEN TALK -"WHEN MOM OR DAD HAS CANCER"

A program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they identify feelings and learn coping skills; a support group for teens and a group

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for parents. The workshop ends with lunch and a family activity, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. Free. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcba.org.

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

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

PETER APEL: SILLY SONGS AND FUN

Come hear Peter's music featuring songs with animal noises, a dinosaur song, movement songs, sing along songs, silly songs, funny songs, and even a breakfast song. Starts at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Children's Reading Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Call 837-4889.

THE HIPWADERS BRING KINDIE

ROCK TO KIDSFAIRE From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. The award-winning band, The Hipwaders, return to Kidsfaire with their 'Hip Music for kids' and parents. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids 2-12. Call (866)283-8600 or visit www.hipwaders.net.

YMCA MODEL COURT/LEGISLATURE

PROGRAM FOR TEENS YMCA Youth & Gov't program is open to 9-12 graders this year. Sign up for this energizing activity that will help students develop important skills. Opportunity goes through Sunday, Nov. 1. Call 475-6108 or visit www.calymca.org/mlc/

Lectures/Workshops

FALL VEGETABLE GARDEN Hear from a Contra Costa County Certified Master Gardener on how to have fresh vegetables right into winter. From 6:30 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24 at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Cost is \$10. Call 973-3282. www.sanremonrecguide.com

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR WRITERS At the next meeting of the California Writers Club-Tri-Valley Branch, authors Lynn Hazen and Susan Taylor Brown will talk to writers about how to use social media such as blogs, Facebook, and Twitter to share and publicize their work. From 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$21 for members and \$27 for non-members. Call 455-1338.

Literary Events

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT 200 - IN FACT RATHER THAN FICTION Fact is separated from fiction in this fascinating Lincoln presentation by Dr. Gerald S. Henig, author and Professor Emeritus at Cal State - East Bay. From 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24 at Valley Oak Room, Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville. Find out about the national Lincoln traveling exhibit coming to Danville in 2010 to celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

On Stage

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK San Ramon Community Theater presents 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 2-4, The Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. For tickets visit www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com or call 973-2787.

Seniors

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

BUZZ SESSIONS Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors from 2:30-3:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400.

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

HICAP APPOINTMENTS The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy

Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

PRIME TIME Prime Time is on break until Sept. 8, but will start up in mid-September from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. New activities will include crafts, games of all kinds, classes and speakers. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$4 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. To be on the mailing list, call Rosy at 552-9675.

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

SENIORS PROGRAM Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall Lounge hosts a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans' Memorial Building, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board games, visiting with friends and meeting new people. Call 314-3400.

ST. ISIDORE'S 'YOUNG AT HEART' Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

VALLEY OAK RESPITE CENTER **ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS** Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The cost is \$30 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040, ext. 53.

Spiritual

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH INTO LATER ADULT LIFE This workshop, offered Tuesday, Sept. 22 to Thursday, Sept. 24 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville, will provide resources that will nourish hope in the midst of discouragement and gratitude in the midst of the ordinary. Presented by Sr. Kristin Cholewa, CSJ and Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy, OFM. Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Cost is \$175 for a shared room or \$205 for a private room. Call 837-9141 ext. 315 or visit www.sandamiano.org.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE SERVICE The Interfaith Peace Project and the

Martin Luther King Peacemakers Committee of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church invites you to participate in a Service of Prayers for Peace in observance of the UN International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21 at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call 837-5243.

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES Rosh Hashanah Services will be held at Chabad of Contra Costa, 1671 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:45 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 20 and a Children's program at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 20. Suggested donation. Call 937-4101.

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES Chabad Yom Kippur Services will be held at the Walnut Creek Marriott, 2355 N. Main St. 6:15 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27; 9:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 28; Yizkor Memorial Service, noon, Monday, Sept. 28; Ne'ilah Concluding Service, 6:30 p.m., Monday Sept. 28. Suggested donation. Call 937-4101.

Sports

LPGA GOLF TOURNAMENT The CVS/Pharmacy LPGA Golf Challenge will be held Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 24-27, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200. Call 725-0148 or visit www.cvslpga.com.

Support Groups

AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH TO HOST THE PARENT PROJECT The series gives parents an opportunity to learn to help support their teens in making positive choices. The goal is to assist in helping their teens improve school attendance and performance, avoid alcohol and drugs, have a happier family life and stay safe. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 25, at Valley High School, 6901 York Drive, Dublin. Cost is \$150 per person; \$200 per couple. Call 201-6201 or visit www.axishealth.org.

JOHN MUIR HEALTH'S 'CARING HANDS' OFFERS VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS TRAINING CLASS "Caring Hands Volunteer Training Class." Become a Caring Hands Volunteer with John Muir Health and make a difference in the life of a senior. The services provided by Caring Hands Volunteers include friendly visiting and companionship, transportation to medical appointments, running errands such as grocery shopping and other needed services. Pre-register for our Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program training. Class is from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25. Orientation/interview required by Friday, Sept. 18. Call 952-2999 or visit www.johnmuirhealth.com/caring_hands

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Parent photographers

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Mustang Fury wins Magic Cup 1

The Division 1 Girls U-16 Mustang Fury were victorious in their quest to become Champions of the 2009 Magic Cup 1 in San Jose on Aug. 29-30 as they went undefeated throughout the entire tournament with every team member contributing to the success. A total of 12 goals were scored. The Fury had a perfect shut-out, letting no one score on them. This is the second year in a row that Fury has won this tournament. Team members are (back l-r) Lauren Kershner, Haley Perkins, Sydnie Blankenship, Courtney Mulsow, Kelsee Berryman, Jenna Douvikas, Morgan Castelein, Devann White, Noria Mitchell, Head Coach Chad Harper, (middle) Kendall Vignaroli, Ashley Love, Michelle Giron, Kiley Zeitler, Jessica Arnold, Shannon Wyne, (front) Lauren Connnelly and Jennifer Dougherty.



Tornados ring second place in Mission Bell

The U13 Mustang Tornados took second place in the Mission Bell Tournament in San Rafael on Aug. 16, with players (front row, l-r) Taylor Cuenin, Katrina Palumbo, Roberta Golez, Shannon Nesbit, (middle) Rachel Pulver, Regan Leach, Shelby Cooke, Natalie Elam, Mac Shrieve, (back) assistant coaches Rob Cuenin and Mike Elam, Alexis Baillie, Rachel Peterson, Hannah Smith, Hannah Perrien, Maya Felton and head coach Mike Cooke.

Attack is on track

Mustang Attack advanced in the highly competitive U12 bracket of the Devil Mountain Tournament against West Contra Costa, Walnut Creek and Fair Oaks, to win the championship 2-1, giving up their only goal all weekend in a tough game against the Mustang Revolution. The Attack made it to the finals in all three tournaments this year and won two of them.

Players are (front row, l-r) Kevin Velo, Michael Collari, Jason Schwartz, Jeffrey O'Neil, Andrew Tsung, Lars Enstrom, Carter Hennigan, Ryan Dang, (back) Coach Russ Lynn, Matt Lencioni, Doug Partridge, Head Coach Pat Lencioni, Blake Klein, Connor Lynn, Conner Lencioni, Jack Neves, Nick Aplicchio and Coach Tim Partridge.



PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 18

Football

- San Ramon Valley vs. Oakland, 7 p.m.
- Monte Vista vs. Pittsburg, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Women's Water Polo

- San Ramon Valley at Acalanes

Women's Volleyball

- San Ramon Valley at Harbor Tournament
- Monte Vista at Albany Tournament

Cross Country

- San Ramon Valley at Lowell Invitational, 8 a.m.
- Monte Vista at Nike Invitational, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Women's Tennis

- San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 4 p.m.
- Monte Vista vs. Foothill

Men's Water Polo

- San Ramon Valley at Amador, 6 p.m.
- Monte Vista vs. Granada, 6 p.m.

Women's Water Polo

- San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 4 p.m.
- Monte Vista vs. Granada, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S GOLF

- San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- San Ramon Valley at Carondelet, 6 p.m.
- Monte Vista vs. Amador, 6 p.m.



Wildcats excel by the Bay

Mustang Soccer U10 girls Wildcats won the consolation final game in the Soccer by the Bay Tournament in Burlingame on Aug 22-23. Players are (front row, l-r) Jenna Liu, Annika Borrelli, Lauren Edelman, Madison Murphy, Brooke Sonu, (back) coach Al Jimenez, Natalie Parker, Erin Cady, Quincy Kaplan, Sara Jimenez, Tessa Wolfgram, coaches Daron Edelman and Bill Liu.



Fury U10 takes Devil Mountain

The Fury recorded shutouts in all four games en route to winning the Devil Mountain Championship. Championship game was 1-0 (OT) over the Mustang Lightning. Goal totals: Rory Biles, six goals; Genevieve DeWalt, two goals; Natalie Yates, Maddy Nelson, Blaire Southmayd, Mackenzie Biles, one goal each. Playing excellent defense were Blaire Southmayd, Natalie Schmahl, Mackenzie Biles and Caitlyn Pulvin. Combining for the shutouts at goalkeeper were Megan Rose and Genevieve DeWalt.

Fury players are (lying in front) Megan Rose, (kneeling) Natalie Yates, Rory Biles, Molly Kolander, Madeline Nelson, Kayla Eckermann, Mackenzie Biles, (standing) Genevieve DeWalt, Natalie Schmahl, Blaire Southmayd, Caitlyn Pulvin, Emma Yates, (back) Coaches Jamie Nelson and Michael Schmahl.

Going the distance

International teens find common language on the diamond

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Every Little Leaguer dreams of making it to "The Show," the major leagues and playing before thousands of cheering fans. As they grow older, and move through tournaments they get a taste of that. But Danville teenager John Hochstatter was able to take that feeling a few steps further as he participated in the 16U International Baseball Federation Championships held this summer at Intercontinental Stadium in Taiwan.

Hochstatter, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School, was chosen from among thousands of young ballplayers to be one of 18 members of Team USA at the IBAF's annual championship.

The 16-year-old attended a tryout featuring 172 teams in Arizona earlier in the summer and was chosen along with 17 other ball players to represent the West Coast. Eighteen players were also chosen from the East Coast, and the three dozen ballplayers went to Fullerton, Calif., for a weeklong tryout that culminated with a team being put together to take part in the championship.

"There were a lot of really good ball players there," Hochstatter recalled. "I didn't really see them though. Honestly, I just went there and did what I had to do."

Hochstatter, a pitcher and 1st baseman who also plays for the SRVHS Wolves, worked his way through the tryout week until a final roster was announced.

"They brought us into the hotel and called off our names," he said. "I didn't have time to get nervous because my name was the first one called."

Once assembled, the team flew out the next day to Taiwan. After a nerve-wracking flight due to an incoming typhoon, the team members arrived in Taichung, where they would be staying for the duration of the trip. The games were scheduled at the Intercontinental Stadium, and the players were lodged at a nearby hotel.

Over the next few days, the players held three exhibition matches to get ready for the start of the championship. This allowed them to get used to being in a different time zone and to get acclimated to the local cuisines, some of which made quite an impression.

"There was pig knuckles," Hochstatter said with a grin. After admitting that he didn't try them he added, "Most of us didn't want to upset our stomachs so we stuck to rice."

Hochstatter and his teammates said they were pleased to find one familiar source of sustenance in Taiwan.

"7-Eleven was our savior; we'd go there every three or four days and stockpile Snickers and Pringles," he said.

After a few short days, it was time for the Opening Ceremonies. Hochstatter said the president of Taiwan officiated at the event.

"The nations walked in one at a time," he said. "We were next to the Russian and Venezuelan teams. It was the first time we saw the other teams."



COURTESY OF IBAF

Team U.S.A. is all smiles after beating Team Cuba, 7-6, in the finals for the 16U International Baseball Federation Championship held in Taiwan. Team U.S.A. racked up its fourth gold medal in as many years at the tournament. Below, Danville teenager John Hochstatter pitched a total of 10 innings, and recorded 15 strikeouts during the championship.

The lack of a common language didn't stop the teams from interacting, and even having some rivalries form.

"The Korean team made a promise that they were guaranteed to beat us," laughed Hochstatter. "They ended up losing to us, but their excuse was that they wanted a certain slot."

Of the 18 team members, Hochstatter was one of eight pitchers. He and two others were the only left-handers on the team. He saw some strong time on the mound, especially in Team USA's matchup against the Netherlands. In the team's 15-1 win, Hochstatter pitched five innings and struck out nine batters.

"I wasn't really thinking about strikeouts, I was focused on everybody wants me to succeed," he explained.

Over the course of the tournament, Hochstatter pitched 10 innings and logged in 15 strikeouts.

"He was their go-to guy when they needed a strikeout," Hochstatter's father Mark proudly stated.

"The confidence behind me was really nice," the younger Hochstatter agreed. "I've never played with that caliber of playing before."

Team USA excelled at the championship, taking its fourth gold medal in a row.



In the IBAF tournament, Team USA is now 31-0. Hochstatter said there were a few games that made them nervous about that record. The first was against their hosts, China-Taipei.

"By the end of the third inning we were down by eight runs," he remembered. "You could tell most of the team was a little shocked. There were three or four errors, and these guys don't make errors."

He said that the team was able to focus its game and pull it out in the end. They ended up defeating the Chinese team 11-8.

In the finals they also struggled against Cuba. Going into the ninth inning, the team was down 6-5 but managed to take a 7-6 lead and hold the Cuban team to no runs, taking the gold medal.

Hochstatter said that being part of the medal ceremony was an amazing experience, one he will never forget. He added that getting to meet the other players from all over the world was an experience he would also value in the years to come.

"It kind of opened my eyes to how big baseball is. How it's not just an American sport," he said. "It also really makes me appreciate living in America." ■

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BY BEVERLY LANE



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OF NOTE

Vet joins Blackhawk practice

Blackhawk Veterinary and Grooming announced that Dr. John Andersen, formerly of Alamo Animal Hospital, has joined its practice. Andersen, a Danville resident, has practiced in the Tri-Valley area for more than 30 years. Blackhawk Veterinary and Grooming is located at 9000R Crow Canyon Road, at the corner of Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Road.



Tuttle award for San Ramon High grad

Michael Bette, a recent graduate of San Ramon Valley High School, receives an awards check from Assistant Fire Chief Steve Hart for \$1,000 from the Robert R. Tuttle Memorial Scholarship Fund. The presentation took place during a meeting of the Danville Sycamore Valley Rotary at Crow Canyon Country Club. Michael will be attending Butte College in the fall, majoring in fire science. Pictured are (l-r) Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich, Mary Tuttle, Michael Bette, Assistant Chief Steve Hart and Rotarian Paul DiDonato (seated).



Danville girls cuts ribbon on new MRI

Camille Thom, 12, of Danville and her entire family took part in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland's new Outpatient Surgery and Diagnostic Imaging facility in Walnut Creek. She and her family, including parents Roland and Nicole, younger brothers Carter and Ashton, and grandma Sylvia, got a sneak peak, as medical director and pediatric anesthesiologist Jonathon Clarke, MD, led them on a tour. The facility opened its doors to patients in mid-August, offering same-day surgery and a state-of-the-art MRI just for kids.

The staff thanked Camille and her family for their fund-raising efforts which helped with the purchase of the 3.0 tesla MRI. Ever since Camille had surgery at Children's Hospital Oakland in 2004 to remove a brain tumor the size of a tennis ball, she and her family have been raising money for the facility with lavish Halloween parties. Camille, who has a rare medical condition called neurofibromatosis, hopes to use this cutting-edge technology three times a year so Children's medical experts can closely watch for re-occurring tumors.

ART SPACE



BY JOHN A. BARRY

Galaxy of Galleries: Four establishments showcase a diversity of work

Danville has been a gallery graveyard: Blackhawk, DACA, Pioneer, to cite three examples. Currently, however, at least four diverse galleries are operating in Danville.

Danville Ink. Tattoos as art? In Danville? Keith Johnson, co-owner of Danville Ink, poses these rhetorical questions. But, yes, there is a tattoo establishment in Danville, the first in the town's history, according to Johnson.

"Tattooing has evolved," he says. "These are serious artists, creating beautiful art for people to wear." He points out that the days of the blurry, green/black anchor "like grandpa's" are long gone. Danville Ink's artists use vibrant colors, creativity, and talent to create "living art."

Johnson refers to his business as a body art studio. Walls are covered with the "flash art" of various artists. Each artist represented has a portfolio of original past works, and Danville Ink offers an unlimited digital portfolio via the Internet. Traditional Japanese dragon and koi fish designs share space with skulls and crosses and roses — "of course!"

Danville Ink clients, notes Johnson, have come from all walks of life. "Whether a client wants a memorial tattoo in remembrance of a lost loved one, a whimsical fairy, or hardcore skulls, our guys will do it right."

Located at 290 Rose St., Danville Ink is open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Sunday; and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Visit www.danvilleink.com or call 838-4465.

Link2 Fine Art Gallery. Stephen Sanfilippo notes that his passion is "bringing together creative people to share their talents with the community." To that end, he recently opened Link2 Fine Art Gallery at Danville's Rose Garden development. Sanfilippo's gallery houses works by 30 accomplished East Bay artists, including award-winning members of regional art organizations, three of whom have been juried into the prestigious Carmel Art Festival.

The gallery exhibits a variety of media and genres — including paintings, sculpture, glass and textiles — and a range of contemporary/modern, impressionistic and traditional styles. Works on exhibit change bimonthly.

Gallery events and activities include weekly art classes and live music jam sessions open to the public every Thursday night. A current event schedule is posted online at the Link2 Fine Art Web site: www.link2fineart.com

The gallery is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

in the Rose Garden Center, intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon. Call 743-1733.

Kevin Milligan Gallery. Owner Kevin Milligan says his gallery features an eclectic selection of paintings: abstract, whimsical and plein air. Other media include collage mixed media, bronze and marble sculpture, classic landscape photography, and fine furniture.

In addition to regularly featured artists, the gallery also hosts four juried competitive exhibitions. These shows will open in January, April, July and October. The October exhibition, entitled "Imagine California Image 2009," is juried by Philip Linhares, chief curator, Oakland Museum.

Milligan notes that he has selected a series of esteemed professionals to jury his shows. "Juried competitions are open to artists working in painting, mixed media, and collage. The juried exhibitions provide local and regional artists with exhibition and professional opportunities while engaging the community in a diverse selection of media and subjects," he explains.

The gallery's next event is a wine-tasting reception from 5-8:30 p.m., Saturday Sept. 19. It's free and open to the public, 21 and older. Unveiled will be a maquette of "The Hero," a metaphorical figurative sculpture proposed for installation on the gallery's roof.

The gallery, located at 408 Hartz Ave., is open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Visit kevinmilligangallery.com or call 309-4648.

Rick's Place. Says Rick Holcomb, owner of this eponymous gallery, "My dream has always been to have the kind of frame shop/gallery that anyone would feel comfortable walking into. Many of our customers say that I touch on a much 'edgier' realm of art than most other galleries today."

Holcomb explains that visitors aren't likely to see framed landscapes hanging in his gallery, but "we can do a beautiful job on anything you might need to adorn the walls of your home." In the framing business for 21 years, Holcomb says that every piece he works on is framed in-house, using the latest in conservation-quality materials.

He says that he tends not to follow the latest art trends but instead focuses on automobilia, tattoo design and hot rod pin-up art. "From a collector's standpoint, these draw as much interest today as they did 40 years ago, and I believe there is a real lack of representation of these styles today. Holcomb invites you to "stop by, and we can discuss how to turn your treasured pieces into amazing works of art."

Rick's Place: Custom Framing and Gallery is located at 625 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 837-1661.

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

THE TEEN WIRE



BY DANIEL MORIZONO

Learning while earning

A student walks into the local Target looking for a part-time job, only to find that 30 others have applied for the same position. An exaggeration? Maybe so, but not by much.

The teenager looking for work today faces the same reality as millions of other Americans — it is difficult to find and keep a job. As often happens during hard times, many jobs that are typically sought after by younger people are taken by older members of the working class. The statistics tell the same story: In July 2007 the 16-19-year-old national unemployment rate was 15.1 percent; by July 2009 it was 23.8 percent. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Many do not fully realize the benefits of teen employment and the effects of teen unemployment. There's a reason why colleges ask if you've ever had "work experience." Having a job, like playing a sport or an instrument, demonstrates commitment and responsibility. By definition, jobs give you interaction with others. If you shortchange people, they will be angry with you. If you are late, you will face consequences. If you respect people, likely they will respect you. Much of what is learned inside the classroom does not adequately prepare us for life beyond the classroom. Working is one way to prepare us for that life.

There's also a unique sense of accomplishment in making money on your own. This means that you've taken a step toward financial independence in not having things given to you by your parents, but achieving them through your own means. Furthermore, public ignorance about finance is notably widespread. A typical group of high school seniors answered only 52 percent of questions correctly in response to basic questions on personal finance, according to a study published by the University of Buffalo. In itself, having a job is not an economics course. But employment does give one a stake in society, and things like finance then begin to matter more.

We should bear in mind the adverse effects of teen employment as well. Research has shown that working more than 20 hours a week can lead to sleep deprivation and fatigue, poor performance in school, high levels of stress, and strained relationships. This is why it is important for adolescents to lead balanced lives and to discuss employment beforehand with their parents. If teens must work because they truly need the money, however, this just shows how greatly financial pressures can impact young people as well.

Teens don't get paid less. The jobs they have, with a few exceptions, pay less. It is no secret that flipping burgers pays minimum wage, or slightly above it. California minimum wage happens to be \$8 per hour, which is 75 cents higher than the federal minimum wage. This is no cause for celebration, though. We Californians have more deducted out of our paychecks than workers in most other states.

I mentioned in my last column that making generalizations is costly and unfair. Well, flipping burgers pays less and teens often find themselves in these jobs. But look at the business model of In-N-Out Burger, a popular place for teens to work. The following is from its Web site:

"We start all our new Associates at a minimum of \$10.00 an hour for one simple reason...you are important to us! And our commitment to a higher starting wage is just one of the ways in which we show it. Another way is through offering excellent benefits like flexible schedules to accommodate school and other activities, paid vacations, free meals, comprehensive training, and a 401k plan."

This single example goes against what we generally think of the relationship between young people and their jobs. Perhaps this teen fast-food employee does it for the money and other material benefits. But also, he or she feels valued. In turn, this worker comes to value the workplace and to understand this "adult" world.

We know it is unfortunate every time a job that puts food on the table is lost. When a job that puts a teen to work is lost, and when a job that could have put a teen to work is denied, that is unfortunate, too.

The Teen Wire provides a perspective on today's youth, in the face of a changing world. Daniel Morizono, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School and news editor of the Wolfprint can be contacted at theteenwire@gmail.org.

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THE WINE GUY



BY DON COLMAN

A hot day with a Chardonnay

Sanford Chardonnay

It was a hot night. My wife and I looked at each other and wondered not only what we would eat for dinner, but more importantly what we could drink with it. Since I started writing this column — beer is not nearly as appealing and given the heat, red wine was really out of the question.

My fridge in my garage is kept a couple of degrees too cold. There are two reasons for this: First, I like my cold drinks served cold; and second, the thermostat on the fridge is broken. I decided, given the heat, I would grab one of those icy cold Chardonnays.

The wine of choice was the Sanford Chardonnay (\$22). My rule is normally to let white wine warm a bit, otherwise you lose the taste to the cold and are left with alcohol as the only flavor you can decipher. I don't know if it was the heat — or simply that I was craving something refreshing — but the Chardonnay did the trick. What we ended up with was a beautiful wine that would appeal to the masses. Read on to find out why.

The wine was a perfect color, yellow with medium depth and was crystal clear. It was very aromatic with plenty of apples and pears that wafted out of the glass with just a hint of citrus and oak flavors following on the scent. This really is an ideal scent for a Chardonnay grape and is complex enough to

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keep even the most discriminating wine drinkers satisfied.

On the taste, the Sanford Chardonnay was a dry white wine that was medium bodied and packed with flavors. The wine started off sweet and moved to a bitter finish with a crisp acidity that lingered for a medium finish. All in all, a spectacular white wine that hits all of the right notes to make for a very drinkable and well priced Chardonnay.

Try this wine with white meat or fish on a hot night, preferably on a patio with good friends. It is a wine that will impress friends and will not drain the bank account at the same time.

When we moved here, I had no idea how many different wine events there could be. I have subscribed to a bunch of different

"wine-mails" so that I could learn about different wines, their characteristics and upcoming events. If you have read this column for a while, you will know that Zinfandels are my favorite and so when I saw this event, I did everything to make sure I could attend. The event is called "Zintopia" and takes place on Sept. 19 in Sonoma. It is a wine festival where you get the chance to taste small lot wines, olive oils and local food. If you are looking for something to do this Saturday — this is worth the drive to wine country. Take a look at www.wdcv.com for more details.

Until next time, Cheers!

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

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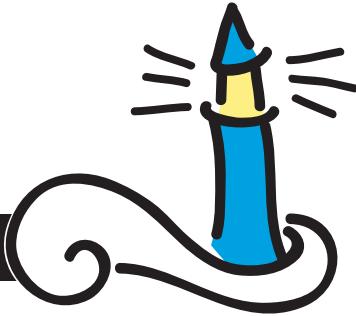
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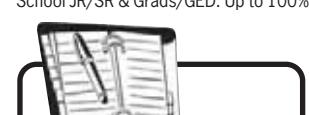
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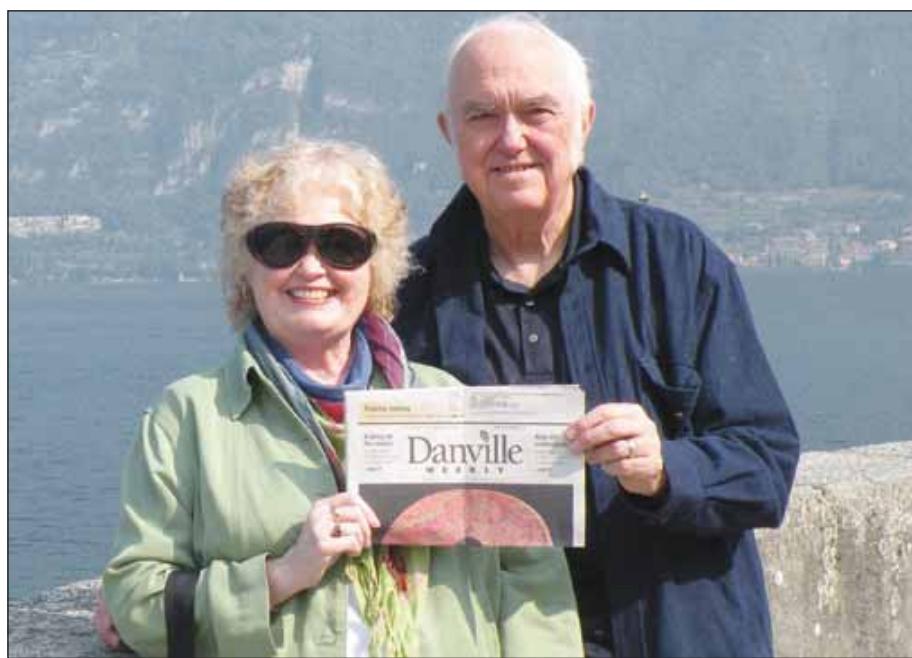
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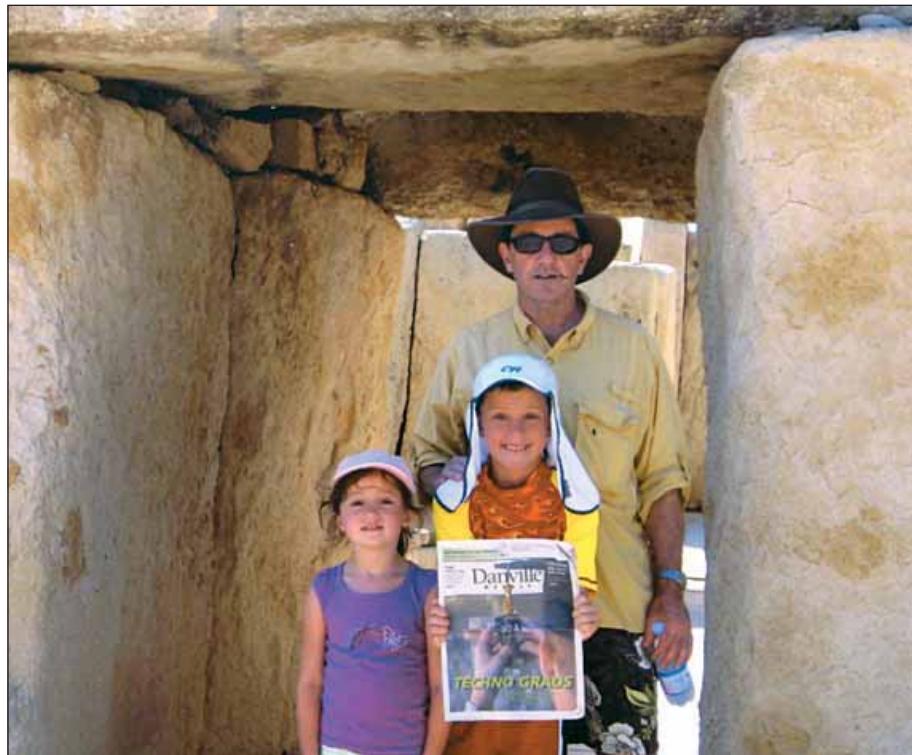
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Ciao! Troy and Roberta Lemmons spent three weeks in Italy with their Danville Weekly. Alas, no sightings of George Clooney.



Ancient visit: Jacob, Hannah and Frank Galdes on a family vacation to the island of Malta. They visited an ancient temple in Hagar Qim built in 3500 B.C.



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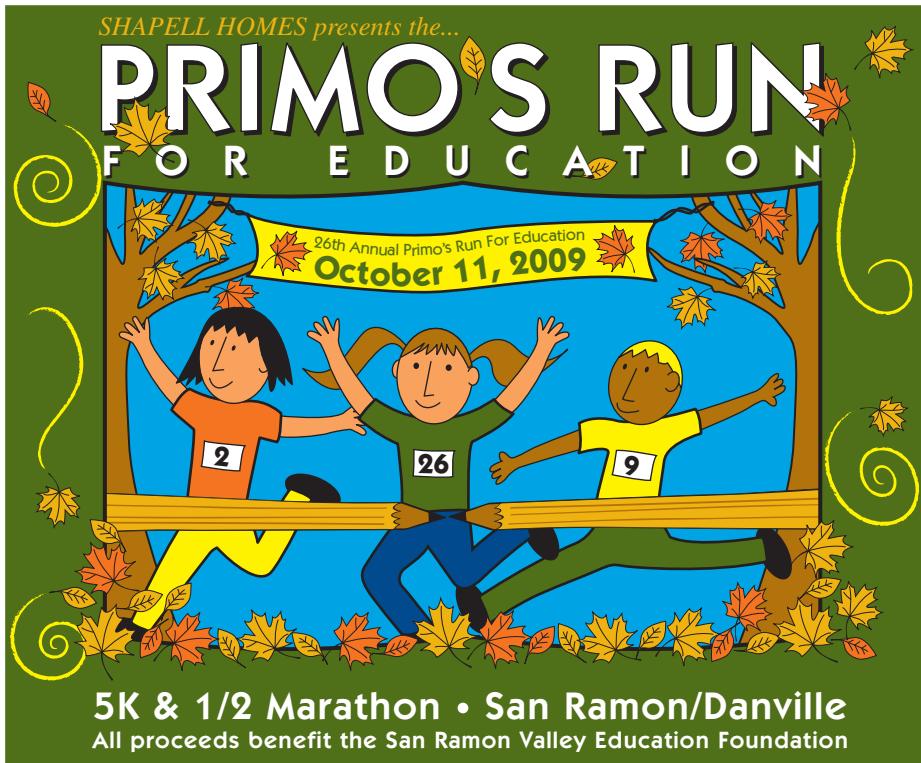
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