

# Danville Weekly

Vol. V, Number 22 • September 25, 2009

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**Remains still being found:** Count up to 49 individuals at gym construction site **PAGE 7**

INSIDE

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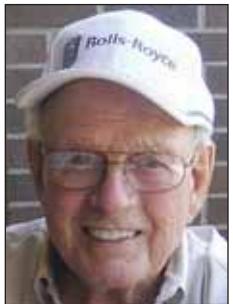
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# Streetwise

ASKED ON RAILROAD AVENUE

## What do you hope to accomplish this fall?



**Lionel "Taffy" Davies**  
retired mechanical engineer

I'd like to enjoy some cool, comfortable weather. I'm from Wales, and it doesn't normally get this hot. I'm 85, and staying alive through the fall would be a good accomplishment. My ambition is to be shot by a jealous husband when I'm 95. Also, I'd like to walk on the beach on the north coast with my whole family at Christmastime.

**Pat Hattaway**  
retired airline reservationist

Now that I have a new dog (toy poodle), I want to walk with him and have him trained by spring. I will also keep busy working on my garden and clearing up my koi fish pond. We're also weekly square dancers and will continue that this fall.



**Shirley Jacks**  
full time volunteer

I shot my daughter Jolina's wedding last year, and I'm going to be the official photographer at my daughter's maid of honor's wedding this fall. I also need to find time for myself and enjoy my recently completed yard with a new pool, spa and landscaping.



**Megan Woram**  
sophomore, University of Oregon

I want to maintain good grades and find a job at school, so I have some spending money. I also want to become more active in school. There's nothing else big on the radar at this time.



**Randy Coste**  
sales manager

This fall I want to get my two boys off to college at UC Irvine. Then we'd like to take a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit our daughter, who is serving as a congressional page for Nancy Pelosi. Our final hope is to get our heirloom tomatoes to ripen.



— Compiled by Stan Wharton

## About the Cover

Danville Councilman Michael Shimansky, who died Sept. 15 at the age of 65, was a familiar face at every event as he served the Town and the community for the last 20-plus years. See story, page 5.

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Soohyun Kim, M.D., R.V.T.  
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Specialist

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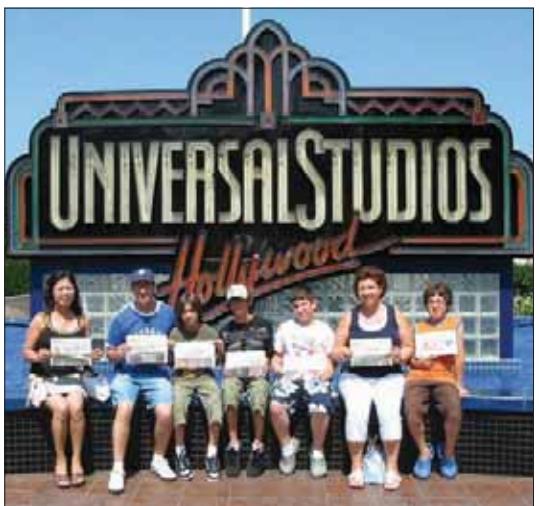


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# TAKE US ALONG



**Pen-pals travel California:**  
Jasmin Intravia and Nina Vertkas, pen-pals of 26 years visit Universal Studios. Jasmin's husband Frank and children, Jason and Alex, are Danville residents. Nina and her two boys, Panagiotis and Petros, traveled from Holland. The Intraviais saved up enough Weeklies for all.

**Tee time:**  
Bob and Valerie Nealis and their Weekly go to the Mercedes Benz Championship in Kapalua. Bob, along with his playing partners, teamed up with Steve Lowery to take third place in the Pro-Am tournament at the event.



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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It was much bigger and stronger than any I'd ever seen. I had to hold it with two hands.”

Alamo resident Rich Conti commenting on the rattlesnake he found in his back yard. Story on PAGE 5

## NEWS DIGEST

### T-Birds turn 50 — help celebrate

The 2009 season marks the 50th anniversary of the San Ramon Valley Thunderbirds. This local football and cheer organization will celebrate this benchmark with events for current participants and alumni during homecoming weekend, Oct. 16-18. In advance of the weekend, the organization is launching its alumni campaign to develop relationships with area and out-of-area alums who understand the meaning of "T-Bird Pride" and want to ensure its continued success.

Alumni are asked to register so that the organization can stay in contact and update everyone on the 50th anniversary events in mid-October. Visit [www.srvthunderbirds.com](http://www.srvthunderbirds.com) and scroll to the bottom of page to click "Alumni Support."

### Learn about Indian life in the Valley

The discovery of multiple Indian burials during the construction of the new gym at San Ramon Valley High School has prompted the Museum

of the San Ramon Valley to present a special interpretive program, "Through Indian Eyes." The public is invited to attend from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Museum at Railroad and Prospect avenues in Danville. This occurs at the opening of the Indian Life Exhibit and educational program for valley students.

"Through Indian Eyes" features speaker Don Phelps, a lecturer in Native American Studies at the University of Phoenix and an adjunct professor in the School of Education at St. Mary's College. He will give a presentation on Native American hunting and collection of food, domestic life, daily rituals, celebration of births and deaths, dress and adornment, and the use of basket. He is a resident of Alamo.

### Have fun in the great meadow

The Danville-based Lazarex Cancer Foundation will host a day-long musical celebration, "Bridge to Hope," on the Great Meadow of Fort Mason Park in San Francisco tomorrow, Sept. 26, to raise awareness and funds to continue its work. Lazarex is the resource — perhaps the only resource — for cancer patients whose only glimmer of hope is treatments beyond

accepted procedures such as traditional radiation and chemotherapy.

The "Bridge to Hope" festival will be a day of world class music, gourmet food, arts and crafts, and the opportunity to celebrate the lives of men, women and children being given a last chance to defeat cancer by the efforts of a local nonprofit whose influence is becoming felt worldwide. And all with a spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge over the Bay.

Doors open at 11 a.m. and entertainment will continue until 7 p.m. General admission is \$38. Go to [www.bridge2hopelcf.org](http://www.bridge2hopelcf.org) or call (800) 595-4849.

### Mayor's Morning on Friday

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich will hold his next monthly Mayor's Morning at 7:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 2. This is a chance to share a light repast with the mayor and town officials, learn what is new in town, and to voice concerns.

The meeting will be held at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect in Danville. Arnerich has changed the venue for his Mayor's Morning each quarter to make it accessible to residents in different parts of the town. No reservations are necessary for the free gathering.

## LIVE MUSIC at The Farmer!

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

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SAT 10/3 8-12pm ★ DANCE PARTY BAND

SUN 10/4 2-6pm in the Gardens ★ NORTHERN STATIC

FRI 10/9 8-12pm ★ RODEO HOUSE ★ COUNTRY/SOUTHERN ROCK

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## Council to appoint replacement for Shimansky

*Applications available online at Town Web site*

**BY GEOFF GILLETTE**

The recent death of long-time Town Councilman Mike Shimansky has left the Danville Town Council with a vacancy, and on Monday the council met to discuss what they will do to fill the remainder of Shimansky's term.

Shimansky died Sept. 15, following complications from bacterial meningitis, which he contracted while visiting his children in San Diego.

Meeting in special session Monday, the council heard from Town Attorney Rob Ewing, who explained why it was necessary to make the decision so soon after Shimansky's passing.

"It's a little difficult talking about this subject so soon after Mike's passing," Ewing said, "but the state gives us 30 days from his passing to fill his seat."

Ewing said that the council has two options in regards to replacing Shimansky: either appoint a person to the seat or direct the Contra Costa County Clerk to call a special election.

According to Ewing, if the town were to go for a special election, they would not be able to hold it until the next scheduled special election, April 6, and it would cost the town an estimated \$176,000.

"Between now and then," Ewing added, "you'd run with only four council members. The person winning that election would only be serving out the rest of Mike's term (ending December 2010), which would be about six months."

Council members discussed the two options, and quickly leaned toward filling the seat by appointment.

"\$176,000 answers my question," said Councilman Mike Doyle. "The fiscally responsible thing to do is appoint."

Mayor Newell Arnerich agreed, saying that not only the cost is significant, but the fact that waiting until April to hold the election would reduce the size of the council for several months.

After a brief discussion, the council decided to fill the seat by appointment, and then talked about how the process will work.

Residents can download the application from the Town's Web site, [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us). As part of the process, applicants are asked to answer a questionnaire provided by the town to detail their involvement in Danville, their opinions on issues such as roads and the downtown business district, and what Danville's role should be in regards to issues facing the entire region.

One question added to the form dealt with the applicant's availability. Council members are paid a monthly stipend of \$675 and usually work a minimum of 15-20 hours a week

on council business.

"If you're the Mayor, it can become a full time job, but we all put in 15 hours a week or more," said Councilwoman Candace Andersen.

Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Oct. 1. After that, the council has scheduled a series of sessions to interview applicants and discuss who they believe should fill Shimansky's seat through the end of his term.

Sessions will be held on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon; Oct. 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Oct. 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Applicants should be prepared to be interviewed during these meetings.

Once the interviews are completed, the council will meet at 9 a.m. on Oct. 13 to discuss the applicants and make a decision. The new council member will be sworn in and will attend their first meeting at the regular session of the council that evening. ■



LUCAS HIRST

Firefighters battle an interior blaze on Vine Lane in Alamo on Sunday morning.

## Unattended candle starts Alamo housefire

*Damage to home estimated at \$500,000*

**BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

An unattended candle in a three-story house on Vine Lane in Alamo is being blamed for a blaze Sunday morning that caused extensive fire, smoke and water damage.

"It was a pretty stubborn fire," said Battalion Chief Jack Barton, "in a three-story house with multiple stairways and a basement."

Firefighters answered the call at 9:38 a.m., said Barton. Crews from Station 32 arrived to find smoke and flames showing from the eves and the rear of the home. Firefighters immediately began an aggressive offensive interior attack and were able to contain the fire to three rooms on the second floor in a little under an hour.

No one was home when the fire began, Barton said, caused by a candle that was left burning unattended on the second floor. The 9-1-1 call was made by neighbors when smoke was seen coming from the upper floors.

Firefighters opened the front door and smoke poured out, said Barton. After they determined there was no fire on the ground floor or in the basement, they proceeded to the sec-

ond floor where they found flames.

"There was fire on the second floor, and lots of heat and smoke on the third floor," he said.

Two bedrooms, one bathroom and a closet were gutted on the second floor, reported Barton. There was smoke damage to the second and third floor, and all three floors sustained water damage.

Stations 31, 32 and 34 of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District responded with a total of five engines, two trucks, one paramedic ambulance, four chief officers and one breathing support unit. One engine from Contra Costa County Fire helped to extinguish the fire. The fire was contained by 10:28 a.m.

"This structure was large and complex, the fire had significant potential. Firefighters did an excellent job containing this fire quickly," said Barton. "We also appreciate the assistance from Contra Costa County Fire and Alameda County Fire for covering our stations during this incident."

The structure sustained about \$400,000 in damage and \$100,000 in content loss. ■

## Town planning Shimansky memorial

*Councilman to be honored at Oak Hill Park*

**BY GEOFF GILLETTE**

Danville Town Staff are working with the family of Councilman Michael Shimansky to plan a memorial in his honor the first weekend in October.

At a special session of the council Monday, Town Manager Joe Calabriga said that he had spoken with the councilman's widow, Sue Shimansky, and that they would hold the memorial event at Oak Hill Park, located at 3005 Stone Valley Road.

"We know there are many in the community who want to pay their respects to Mike," Calabriga said. "We are working to put together the details on that."

The event will be held outside at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Assistant to the Town Manager

Rochelle Flotten said seating will be limited, so attendees are asked to bring folding chairs and blankets. A list of speakers who will be participating is being compiled. Once the information is available, it will be posted to the town's Web site, [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

For those looking to send flowers, the Shimansky family has asked that instead contributions be made in Mike's name in the form of a check payable to either Karen Stepper or David Miller. The checks should be made out with "FBO Mike Shimansky" on them. Checks can also be sent to Kevin Schwartz, Branch Manager of Wells Fargo Bank, located at 165 Diablo Road. ■

## Slithery surprise

**BY GEOFF GILLETTE**

An Alamo resident stepping outside for a quiet glass of wine instead found a stressful surprise. Rich Conti said on Sept. 4 he and his wife were in the back yard when their dog Louie suddenly began barking and they discovered a 4-foot-long rattlesnake.

"The dog started barking and then I heard the rattle and looked for it," said the Bryan Meadow resident. He found the huge rattlesnake lying in the dirt near his back steps, coiled up, its rattle sounding a warning. Conti said the first thing he did was keep Louie away from the agitated reptile.

Once the dog was safely away, Conti went to get his "snake grabber," a pole with a clamp on the end designed to immobilize a reptile without getting close to it.

"We live at the foot of Mount Diablo and occasionally there are snakes," he explained. "My neighbor had one and I thought it was a good to have around if there was a snake, so I bought one on eBay."

Grabbing the snake and disposing of it were two different things, however. Conti said he was able to get the jaws of his tool around the snake's midsection, but that it took all of his strength just to hold onto the creature.

"It was much bigger and stronger than I'd ever seen. I had to hold it with two hands," he recalled. "It was scary for a little while. The thing was so big and it was angry."

Once he had control, he took the snake to the front of his house and there waited for help from a neighbor.



BOB OXENBURGH

Rich Conti displays the large rattlesnake he found in his back yard on Sept. 4.

"My wife wouldn't come close to it — or me as long as I was holding it," he said with a laugh. "She called the neighbors but no one was around."

Eventually, Conti said, she brought him a shovel and he was able to hold the snake's head down on the ground until his neighbor Bob Oxenburgh came over and they were able to kill it.

"I couldn't believe how big and strong it was," he said. "It was pretty threatening."

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Wildlife Rehabilitation Director Susan Heckly identified the snake as a larger than usual Western Rattlesnake. Heckly said while the snake usually can be very thick through the body, they usually only measure about 3 feet in length. ■

## San Ramon woman saluted for help solving Garrido kidnapping case

By ROZ ROGOFF

San Ramon city officials, along with a number of other area representatives, turned out Monday to salute UC Berkeley police Officer Lisa Campbell. She was the officer who blew the whistle on Phillip Garrido and helped free captive Jaycee Dugard and her two daughters.

San Ramon resident Lisa Campbell thought something wasn't right about the strange man with two pale girls who came into her office on the campus of the university to request a permit to hold a religious event. Lisa followed through on her hunches, and Jaycee Dugard, who had been kidnapped 18 years ago, is now at home with her family.

Campbell began her career in police work with the Cook County Sheriff's Office in Chicago. She worked in the juvenile court system there and later in the San Diego District Attorney's Office as



JEB BING

San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson offers UC Berkeley Police Officer Lisa Campbell the congratulations of the town and a blanket to "warm her heart" for her role in the capture of Phillip Garrido and the release of kidnapped Jaycee Dugard.

a welfare fraud investigator and for the Los Angeles Police Department as an investigator.

She moved to San Ramon about nine months ago to take the job as manager of the Special Events Unit of the UC Berkeley Police Department. Her years of experience paid off Aug. 24 when Phillip Garrido walked into the office.

Garrido was with his two daughters, 11 and 15, but Campbell could see something wasn't quite right about the girls. She asked Garrido to come back the next day and invited another officer, Ally Jacobs, to the meeting.

Jacobs also found the girls' behavior suspicious and ran a check on Garrido. From there the story leads to finding the girls' mother, Jaycee Dugard, who had been kidnapped 18 years ago by Garrido and his wife. The story has since gained national attention, all because Lisa Campbell helped set free Jaycee Dugard and her daughters.

The UC Berkeley police contacted U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney, in whose 11th Congressional District both officers live — Campbell in San Ramon and Jacobs in Brentwood.

On Sept. 21, McNerney held an event at San Ramon City Hall to present Campbell with his entry

in the Congressional Record about her actions.

"Had it not been for Ms. Campbell's realization that something was awry with the man requesting a permit to hold an event on the UC Berkeley campus, the abuse of Jaycee and her daughters would not have stopped," the record reads. "Lisa Campbell's and Ally Jacobs' quick action and good instincts prevented innocent people from experiencing further harm, led to the arrest of a dangerous person, and reunited a family tragically separated for almost two decades. I am honored to represent Ms. Campbell, and I am grateful for her dedicated public service."

McNerney also presented Campbell with a flag that flew over the White House and described her actions as "the essence of good police work."

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan was also in attendance. "We're very proud you are part of our community," Buchanan said.

San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson compared Campbell's actions to lighting a candle in the dark. He presented Campbell with a San Ramon blanket for "warming so many hearts."

Campbell thanked everyone there, "and the team that I work with." ■

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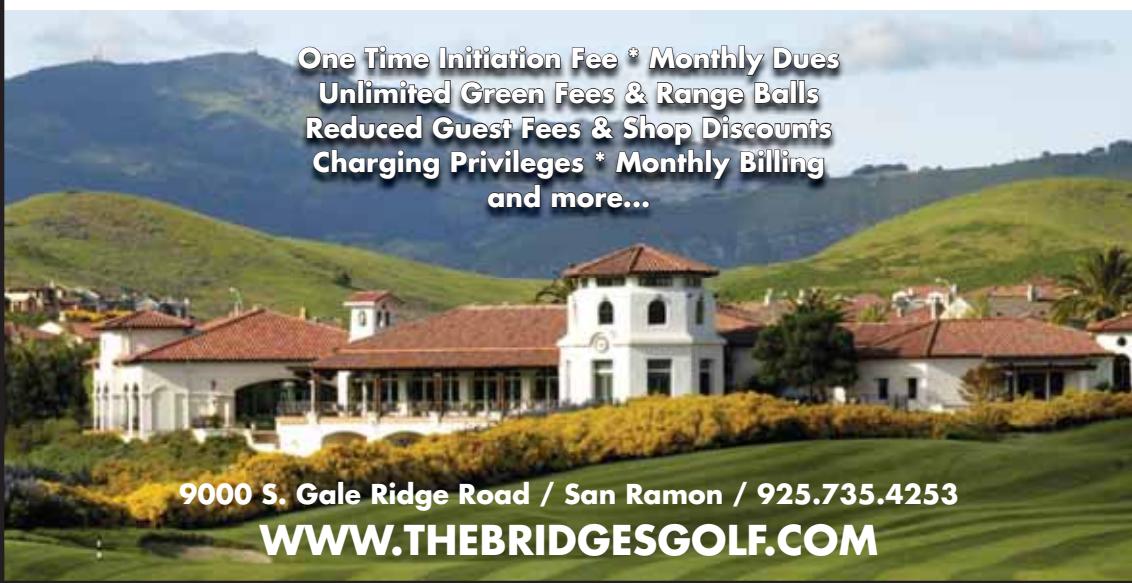
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# Alamo Community Council to continue

*Council's relationship to MAC will be worked out*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

When the members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted last month to approve the creation of a Municipal Advisory Council for Alamo, it was believed that community groups such as the Alamo Community Council would fade away, their functions absorbed by the incoming MAC.

Such is not the case, according to officials with District 3 Supervisor Mary M. Piepho's office.

At the Thursday meeting of the ACC, Piepho's Chief of Staff Tomi Van de Brooke gave an update on the process of choosing MAC members.

"Right now we have 20-25 applicants," Van de Brooke confirmed. "I'm not sure when it will get on the Board's agenda."

Applications are being accepted until Sept. 15, after which Van de Brooke and other members of Piepho's staff will examine the list of applicants and come up with a recommended list of seven members for the new MAC. Piepho will then either interview candidates

with whom she may not be familiar or she will move ahead with the list of members and seek approval from the Board of Supervisors.

"The 25th of September is probably too tight," Van de Brooke advised. "But if I don't get it done by the middle of October I will be very disappointed."

The question raised by ACC members, given the time frame of creating the MAC, was whether they should plan an October meeting or not. Van de Brooke suggested the group move ahead with an Oct. 8 meeting, regardless of the situation with the MAC.

"If the MAC is formed we'll invite a member to attend," she suggested.

The question arose as to whether it would be possible to invite the entire MAC to the Oct. 8 meeting. Van de Brooke said that since the MAC would be bound by the Brown Act, she would need to check on how that would work and how much notice would be needed if the MAC members were to attend the ACC meeting.

Afterward, Van de Brooke was asked about the future of the ACC and its place in Alamo once a MAC is established.

"The Alamo Community Council is a cross-sharing group that shares information on all the different organizations that Supervisor Piepho's office has traditionally sent the agendas out," she stated. "The group has agreed to meet again in October and what I heard tonight is that we'll evolve into how it interfaces with the MAC in the future."

Van de Brooke added that the supervisor's office is a strong supporter of the efforts of the ACC and it intends to remain involved at some level even after the MAC comes into existence.

"They are a great information-sharing organization and the spirit of that needs to continue. Although in what form that is I'm not sure and that's not something that we would necessarily attempt to dictate," she said. "We don't want to lose things, we don't want to make absolutes, so allow it to evolve naturally and see how it goes." ■

## 23 residents apply for Alamo MAC

*Supervisor Piepho to choose seven for advisory council*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

In a strong showing of interest, 23 residents of Alamo have applied with District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's office to be one of the seven members of the newly created Municipal Advisory Council (MAC).

Piepho's Chief of Staff Tomi Van de Brooke said the names were all turned in by the Sept. 15 deadline.

"We're very pleased with the response," she stated. "It's good to see so many people wanting to be involved in Alamo."

In the next step, Van de Brooke and others on Piepho's staff will go through the names

and come up with a recommendation of seven names for the initial MAC.

Residents who applied to be on the MAC include:

Harald A. Bailey  
David Barclay  
Michael W. Bealmeir  
Tyler P. Berding  
Ed Best  
Sanjiv Bhandari  
David Bowlby  
Nancy Dommes  
Janet Evans  
Elizabeth Fendyan  
Marsha Golangco  
Dennis Johnson  
John Jones

T.S. Khanna  
Cynthia Kurtzer  
Michael McDonald  
Karen McPherson  
Chris Michel  
Steve Mick  
Vish More  
Bob Myhre  
Alina Roshai  
Jim Sparkman

Van de Brooke said if Supervisor Piepho is unfamiliar with any of the applicants she may set up some interviews. Otherwise, the plan is to have a preliminary list ready by the end of September, with a possible vote on the names by early October. ■

## Gym construction still delayed

*Indian remains still being uncovered*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

The planned construction of the new gymnasium at San Ramon Valley High School, delayed in July after the discovery of human remains in the ground at the site, continues to be slowed as more Native American remains are unearthed.

Andy Galvan, designated as the Most Likely Descendant by the Native American Heritage Commission, has been overseeing the dig site since the remains were first discovered. His task has been getting the remains safely disinterred.

"A total of 49 discrete human skeletons have been identified," Galvan said. "During the course of burial excavations on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, one additional burial was disturbed."

The crews will remove the remains, store them safely until all are out, and then they will be reinterred in the Ohlones Indian Cemetery in Fremont.

SRVHS Principal Joe Ianora said the construction team is working on the site, but that they are very limited in what they can do while archeological crews unearth the remains.

The process is an exacting one as the crew members use fine brushes to clean all the dirt away from the remains, according to Galvan. A pencil sketch is then made and any remains not connected to the main portion of the find are individually removed and carefully bagged. The crew makes sure that any additional pieces are interred with the remains found at

that location.

Neither Ianora nor Galvan were able to give a definitive time when the work will be finished, although Ianora said he thinks it should be done soon.

"The footings for the new gym are almost completely dug," he explained. "There is not much in that area that still needs to be dug out. So once they remove all of those remains, the work should be able to resume."

At this time it is unknown if the gymnasium will reach completion by summer 2010, or how the delays will affect the overall cost of the project. ■

*Read about the history of local Native Americans on page 16.*

## DIABLO VIEWS



By GEOFF GILLETTE

### Screaming tweens and a moment of clarity

I'm sitting in the second balcony of the Oracle Arena.

Two pre-teen girls behind me scream so fiercely that it makes my fillings buzz. Lights flare in my eyes, fireworks leave pinpoints of light across my retinas and the bass line on the song blasting out of the speakers literally pushes my jeans back against my shins.

That's when it hits me. A moment of clarity. Not some grand epiphany solving all of life's ills, but that brief second when all the pieces fit together in the cosmic puzzle and we get just a wee glimpse of what the overall picture is supposed to be.

Who knew that mine would come in the middle of a Miley Cyrus concert?

Miley is one of the latest teen phenoms to come forth from the Disney marketing machine, rising to prominence through a TV show called Hannah Montana. She has become so popular that a movie was made of the show and she has actually launched a worldwide concert tour using her real name.

So, how, you may ask, did I come to be spending a Friday night surrounded by thousands of screaming little girls dressed like some strange hybrid of Madonna and Britney Spears?

It's simple, really. It's the boy with the shining eyes sitting next to me, his entire attention focused with laser intensity on the spectacle of Miley Cyrus belting out her songs onstage.

My son Harry has been in love with Miley since the Hannah Montana show first aired on the Disney Channel. He has downloaded her music on I-tunes and has posters of her adorning his room, right alongside his posters of Captain Jack Sparrow and the Sharks at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

It always struck me as a dichotomy that he would enjoy action movies, pokemon, soccer and video games and yet still be so drawn to this pop star whose key demographic is young girls. And yet for him there is nothing odd about it or even anything different between liking Miley Cyrus and liking the Transformers movie.

Thus for his birthday, Harry found himself in possession of two tickets to go see Miley in concert. So the two of us climbed aboard BART and made our way to Oakland to see the rock star live and in person.

I wasn't thrilled to be going, just because a lot of Miley's music I'm not too keen on, but I knew it was important to my son that I go along. To show him I support him in what he likes, even if it's something that I don't care for.

But after standing in line after

line after line, my mood was dark. I grumbled over the hassle of getting a simple piece of \$10 cheese pizza, the ridiculous crowds and the long line for souvenirs.

I tried to keep my thoughts to myself because of Harry. He was ebullient, his smile radiating out in every direction and when Miley took the stage he leapt to his feet, fists pounding the air and let out a whoop that could match the screeches of any little girl there.

Then the music fired up and a wave of sound pushed us back in our seats. The concert was starting and Harry was in heaven. Me, I was thinking I was somewhere a bit warmer.

I clapped, but it was the polite hand slapping one does to appear to be participating, not the thunderous peals we humans are capable of when we really mean it. I don't know if Harry noticed, but I did.

That moment I mentioned earlier? It happened during a song called the "Hoe-down Throwdown." It's a popular Hannah Montana number and calls for a lot of dance moves.

Harry got up and started to try to copy the moves, then hesitated and looked back at me, still sitting down, not participating. Doubt clouded his features for the first time.

To see that worry on his face, like I was judging him for his likes, pierced me to my soul and I knew what I had to do. I had to do more than just be there. I had to be present.

I leapt up, grabbed his hands and rocked out to the song. We looked awkward spinning around in the tight row, but we danced and laughed and did our very best to "throw down" with the best of them. When the song ended, we whooped and hollered and clapped our loud approval together.

As we sat back down, he took my wrist and wrapped it around his shoulders. That's how we spent the rest of the concert. Except when we had to cheer Miley on, of course.

My arm stayed around him on the bus back to the BART station and on the train itself. Fireworks from the Coliseum saw us off and as Harry sleepily relaxed against me and started to drift off he looked up at me with those bright eyes and said, "Thanks for being here with me tonight, Dad."

Someday he won't want my arm around him anymore. Someday he won't care what I think of the music he likes, or the clothes he wears. And a simple "I love you" will be rarer than stardust.

But that night, what I thought of his choices meant something. That I'd taken him to see this silly little pop star meant something. Something important.

"I'm glad to be here," I told him. And I was.

Geoff Gillette can be e-mailed at [gillette@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:gillette@DanvilleWeekly.com).

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

### An ending, a beginning

By Gina Channell-Allen

To say the decision to stop publishing the Danville Weekly was difficult is an understatement. We fought long and hard to keep the print edition, knowing that there are many people who look forward to the weekly newspaper and enjoy perusing it from cover to cover over coffee, or sticking it into a soccer bag to read on the sidelines.

But then we looked at the statistics from our Web sites, DanvilleWeekly.com, and the new SanRamónExpress.com, and realized that many people go online to get their news. The number of unique visitors and pageviews increased more than 300 percent in the past year.

The value of the newspaper and Web sites is the dissemination of news and information. We have already discovered the benefit of being able to put breaking news onto our Web site and send out a bulletin to alert our readers. The Danville Weekly has gradually become a daily via our online edition.

Quality journalism is a necessity for a community and a vital part of the democracy established by our forefathers. That said, how the news and information is delivered is less of a concern, as long as the quality of the journalism is maintained. So, instead of spending thousands of dollars on printing and mailing a newspaper, especially in these recessionary times, we made the decision to focus our resources on the journalism as opposed to the vehicle by which it is delivered.

On Oct. 2 we will say goodbye to the Danville Weekly and welcome DanvilleExpress.com. In addition to the reporting and news you found in the Danville Weekly, DanvilleExpress.com will feature interactive options, including the popular Town Square forum. This allows readers to interact with each other in addition to interacting with us.

While we are sad to see Danville Weekly go out of print, to quote a popular song, "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." We look forward to able to interact more with you, and giving you a forum to share your views.

Meanwhile we want to know what features you would like us to continue online. E-mail me at [gallen@danvilleweekly.com](mailto:gallen@danvilleweekly.com). See you online!

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## LETTERS

### The saddest thing

Dear Editor:

The news of your paper no longer going to be in print, is one of the saddest things I have heard all year. In a town that prides itself for having that small town feel, in a world where newspapers are disappearing every second, I never imagined that Danville Weekly would not buck the trend. There has not been a Friday in many years where I did not arrive home, make myself comfortable, and read the Danville Weekly.

I love our town and losing the newspaper that helped connect me to all that is Danville is like losing a friend. When a news source that makes us feel better about ourselves goes away and we are all left to gather news from sources that focus on all that is negative in the world, it is a very sad day not just for those of us in this great community, but to those in lesser communities who looked to us a symbol of hope and optimism of what a community can and should be.

**Steve Wilcox**  
Danville

### Sign of the times

Dear Editor,

Call me old-fashioned, but at age 50 I still love the feel and texture of a newspaper. So, it was with mixed feelings that I learned the Danville Weekly would soon go to an online edition only.

There are many reasons this is happening, not the least of which is economic. The same economies of scale that are threatening to put the San Francisco Chronicle out of business, are having an impact on local weeklies as well. The same impact that Craigslist is having on classified ads, is affecting advertising revenue at newspapers, big and small alike.

To its credit, the Danville Weekly launched a vibrant online presence as did its sister paper. The online version is so much more timely and the news does not have to wait until Friday.

Times change and we must change with them. In the last two years I have learned to blog, Twitter, Facebook, upload, desktop video edit, and a whole host of "new media" techniques. It helped me publish and promote my first book and quite honestly saved my career. Technology has created a "survival of the fittest" in the world of journalism and elsewhere, so it's "adapt or die."

I will be sad when the "Danville Weekly" prints its last paper edition on Friday October 2, but I will check in every few hours-- as I already do now-- to get the latest local news from [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com). May the online paper thrive!

**Mark Curtis**  
Danville

### LPGA saved my life

Dear Editor:

I had never suffered any health issues, perhaps an occasional sprained ankle or bruised ego, so when I stepped into "Dr. Sonia's" dermatology booth at the 2008 LPGA CVS Challenge my expectation was to get a brief mole inspection, a stamp of approval, and to carry on with my enjoyment of observing some of the best golf in the world. Just moments later, after the doctor's simple and quick scan of my skin, I instead found myself walking away with an appointment card for a follow-up exam.

Dr. Sonia Badreshia-Bansal and her staff had temporarily moved their practice to a small tent alongside our Lakeside 18th green for the weekend to share information about one of our most critical, but often ignored, health issues. As she was quick to explain, my decades of youthful baseball, cycling, golf and just plain frolicking in the sun without appropriate sun screen and clothing may have led to serious concerns.

A few weeks, after a couple of short exams and simple biopsies, I was diagnosed with early-mid stage melanoma. Had I not been checked at the greenside venue in September, by as early as the next spring I could have been facing lymph node issues and perhaps radiation. Instead, due to the early discovery, I underwent an outpatient procedure to remove a cocktail-coaster-sized slice of skin, excising all signs of the cancer.

I am hoping that the scar on my arm will be a reminder for me and others to wear my dermatologist-approved sun screen and a reminder of how the CVS Challenge at Blackhawk Country Club saved my life.

**David Brown**  
Blackhawk

### Excerpts from the Town Square on Danvilleweekly.com

Never read the print edition but I check the website almost daily. It's my main source of local news and I like the whole publication. I'm glad it will continue online. Yes, I am one of the reasons that print newspapers are going out of business.

**Posted by Joe,**  
Sept. 17

Drag me kicking and screaming into the future. I still enjoy sitting down with a good cup of coffee, served in a real coffee mug and holding and reading the paper...so sad. I have an internet capable phone but like so many of generation, my eyes are not what they once were.

**Posted by Sherm,**  
Sept. 17

I think it's about time other community papers look at changing with the times.

**Posted by Jennifer,**  
Sept. 19

# Danville Weekly

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

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# Community Pulse • Transitions

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Police investigating indecent exposure reports

Danville police are looking into two separate reports of indecent exposure that took place Friday near Los Cerros Middle School. Lt. Mark Williams said both incidents occurred on the Green Valley Trail around 2:40 p.m. Sept. 18 as groups of students walked home from school.

Williams said in the first incident, a group of girls was walking on the trail near Blemer Road when they saw a male jogger running toward them. Reportedly, the man grabbed the bottom of his shorts and pulled them up, exposing his genitals as he ran past. The girls said the suspect did not say anything as he ran past.

The second incident happened further down the trail a short time later. A group of females reported a similar incident, where the man again raised his shorts.

Police were called nearly an hour later, after one of the girls reported the incident to her parents. A search of the area did not turn up a suspect.

The students described the suspect as a white male adult, 35-45 years old, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall. He was wearing dark colored shorts, a white T-shirt, sunglasses and a baseball cap. Police said there were conflicting reports that the man may have had a small amount of facial hair.

Williams said they will be following up on the case by adding an extra patrol to the area. Patrols will be conducted on foot, bicycle and vehicle. He added that students in the area are

encouraged to be aware of their surroundings, not to talk to strangers, and to report any suspicious activity.

Any person with information regarding the suspect is urged to contact the Danville police at 314-3700.

—Geoff Gillette

### Van/bike crash lands boy, 11, in hospital

A Danville boy was hospitalized Monday after he was struck by a van while riding his bicycle near Diablo Vista Middle School.

CHP Officer Steve Creel said the incident occurred at 3:50 p.m. Monday on Camino Tassajara near Hansen Lane. The victim, an 11 year old Danville boy, was riding on Hansen Lane crossing Camino Tassajara at the signalized intersection.

"Witnesses said he was crossing against the light," said Creel. "He made it across the eastbound lanes but was hit in the westbound lanes by a Toyota Sienna van."

The impact reportedly smashed the windshield of the van and threw the youth to the ground. Creel said the young cyclist was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Paramedics were called to the scene by CHP, and the boy was airlifted from the roadway and transported to Children's Hospital Oakland. He was reported in fair condition Tuesday, having suffered a broken leg in the crash.

Creel said there were no charges as the investigation of the crash has not been completed.

—Geoff Gillette

## BIRTHS

### Emma Hilda Louise Gutierrez

Emma Hilda Louise Gutierrez was born at 10:19 p.m. July 27 at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Walnut Creek to Amory and Martin Gutierrez and sister Ava. Emma weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.



## OBITUARIES

### June and Charles Zweifel

June Zweifel, a resident of Danville, died Sept. 13 at the age of 90, and her husband, Charles "Hop" Zweifel, also a resident of Danville, died Sept. 16 at the age of 88.

She was born in California on June 13, 1919, and he was born in Nebraska on Sept. 26, 1920. Both passed away at their residence, "forever in love."

Douglas and Gary Wallner and Karen Ries. She is survived by six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was sister to Angie Zigenis and the late Sam and John Tasoulas.

She was an active member of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. Trisagon Services were held Sept. 21 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley, with funeral services Sept. 22. Donations may be made to Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection Memorial Fund.

### Dorothy C. Holm

Dorothy C. Holm, a resident of Danville, died Sept. 16 at the age of 97.

She is survived by her children, Doris Tucker, Janice Brignoli and Edward Thune. Services are pending with Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel, 934-5400.

### Katherine Wallner

Katherine Wallner, a resident of Danville, died Sept. 17 at the age of 86.

She was born in Boise, Idaho, and was a longtime resident of Oakland.

She was the beloved wife of the late Gerald Wallner and loving mother to

## POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

### Sunday, Sept. 13

- Suspicious circumstance at La Gonda Way and Westbriar Knolls at 12:37 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop on 500 block of La Gonda Way at 1:18 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Iron Horse Trail and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:17 a.m.
- Suspicious subject at Alicante Dr. and St. Christopher Dr. at 5:35 a.m.
- Vandalism on 700 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:58 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 100 block of Railroad Ave. at 11:38 a.m.
- Missing juvenile on 300 block of Ramona Rd. at 12:40 p.m.
- Robbery on 1000 block of La Gonda Way at 3:48 p.m.
- Reckless Driving at Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley at 6 p.m.
- Battery, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 6:50 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 7:09 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 14

- Suspicious circumstance on 400 block of Evergreen Ct. at 10:25 a.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 300 block of Merrilee Pl. at 12:56 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 400 block of Front St. at 1:44 p.m.
- Petty theft on 500 block of W Sycamore Valley Rd. at 5:08 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstance at Crow

Canyon Rd. and Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 6:03 p.m.

- Shoplifting on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:26 p.m.

### Tuesday, Sept. 15

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Diablo Rd. and El Cajon Dr. at 12:15 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop on 800 Block of La Gonda Way at 5:49 a.m.
- Suspicious subject stop at Constitution Dr. and El Cerro Blvd. at 6:06 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 200 block of Meadowside Pl. at 7:24 a.m.
- Shoplifting, arrest, in custody, on 300 block of Railroad Ave. at 7:52 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Ackerman Dr. and El Cerro Blvd. at 7:55 a.m.
- Suspicious subject at Camino Ramon and Fostoria Way at 9:21 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on 100 block of Highbridge Ct. at 10:53 a.m.
- Suspicious subject at Allegheny Dr. and El Capitan Dr. at 2:14 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on 100 block of Front St. 3:19 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on 8000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 4:23 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 3500 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:55 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 300 block of Ilo Lane at 7:59 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 500 block of Cambrian Way at 8:21 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 9:21 p.m.

### Wednesday, Sept. 16

- Suspicious vehicle stop at the Livery

at 12:05 a.m.

- Suspicious vehicle stop at Cimarron Ct. and Woodranch Circle at 3:27 a.m.
- Uncontrollable juvenile on 1700 block of Green Valley Rd. at 8:07 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 200 block of Fairway Dr. at 8:08 a.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Monte Carlo Way at 9:01 a.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 100 block of Dana Highlands Ct. at 10:30 a.m.
- Suspicious subject on 300 block of Silverado Ct. at noon.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Meese Circle at 12:47 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 300 block of Ilo Lane at 2:32 p.m.
- Suspicious subject on 4100 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:59 p.m.
- Fraud on 300 block of Ilo Lane at 4:51 p.m.
- Suspicious subject on 1300 block of Silverwood Ct. at 8:58 p.m.

### Thursday, Sept. 17

- Party disturbance on 300 block of Barrett Circle at 1:57 a.m.
- Vandalism on 2100 block of Holbrook Dr. at 8:08 a.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 11:13 a.m.
- Possession of switchblade on 900 block of Blemer Rd. at 11:53 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 300 block of Rose Ave. at 1:24 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 1:38 p.m.

■ Vandalism on 200 block of Cypress Hills Ct. at 3:44 p.m.

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Lane at 4:57 p.m.

■ Threats disturbance on 100 block Brightwood Circle at 6:14 p.m.

■ Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on 700 block of Broodside Dr. at 7:15 p.m.

■ Reckless Driving at northbound I-680 and El Cerro Blvd. at 8:09 p.m.

- Driving under the influence, misdemeanor, on 400 block of Front St. at 10:40 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 1200 block Dutch Mill Dr. at 11:26 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 800 block of Camino Ramon at 11:59 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 18

- Burglary on 1100 block of Delta Way at 8:28 a.m.
- Battery on 500 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:07 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 800 block of Camino Ramon at 9:13 a.m.
- Identity theft on 200 block of Arency Ct. at 10:06 a.m.
- Petty theft on 1100 block of Mustang Dr. at 11:33 a.m.
- Battery on 500 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:20 p.m.
- Residential burglary on 800 block of Orange Blossom Way at 3:56 p.m.
- Petty theft, in custody, on 300 block of Railroad Ave. at 4:44 p.m.
- Suspicious subject on 2100 block of Holbrook Dr. at 8:17 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop on 10000 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 9:24 p.m.

p.m.

- Prowler heard on 200 block of Cross Bridge Dr. at 11:38 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 19

- Suspicious subject on El Cerro Dr. at 2:19 a.m.
- Petty theft on 1200 block of Camino Tassajara at 8:29 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop at Jasmine Way and Squirrel Ridge Way at 10:05 a.m.
- Reckless driving on 100 block of Dana Highlands Ct. at 11:13 a.m.
- Public nuisance, arrest, on 300 block of Hartford Rd. at 1:00 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 600 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:14 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 700 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:39 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor at Linda Mesa Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 2:46 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 100 block of Gold Poppy Ct. at 4:16 p.m.
- Drugs violation on 200 block of Borel Lane at 5:16 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Greenbrook Dr. and Merrilee Pl. at 6:56 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance, arrest, on 800 block of Diablo Rd. at 8:24 p.m.
- Service warrant, arrest, on 100 block of Shelterwood Pl. at 9:37 p.m.
- Juvenile disturbance, arrest, on 1000 block of La Gonda Way at 10:19 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstance on 100 block of Meese Circle at 11:25 p.m.



During the inaugural run of Period 7 at San Ramon Valley High School, student "Link Leaders" work with a group of freshmen. The idea is to help the SRVHS newcomers get a handle on the changing academic and dynamics at the high school level. At right, older students congregate in the classroom of biology teacher Robin Groch. Some students seek additional help from Groch on course information, while others do individual work on projects for other classes.

# Period of Change

## SRVHS program targets freshmen/at-risk students

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

**E**ducation is a constantly evolving thing, with schools having to integrate new technologies, new methods and new thoughts into curricula that have been around for decades. One thing remains the same: No matter where the school or how it is designed, there will always be students who struggle.

Some will struggle with coursework, some will struggle with social issues. It is this universal constant that led officials at the San Ramon Valley High School to institute a redesign of its school day to give those struggling students a chance to make the grade.

Starting Sept. 21, SRVHS instituted Period 7. What it means is that three days a week, each class is shortened by five minutes in order to create a window of opportunity from 2:40 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. for an additional period. Period 7 is expected to provide remediation for those students who are struggling, guidance and advice to students new to the high school, and enrichment for the other members of the student populace.

"This is a great new program that we think is really going to help our students and allow them to succeed," said SRVHS Principal Joe Ianora.

Period 7 has been several years in the works. Ianora said the idea first came up six years ago, as a result of discussions stemming from the high school's decision to follow the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model.

"We have chosen to embrace the PLC model,"

he stated. "Under that model you ask three primary questions."

Those questions are:

- What does the school want students to learn and do?
- How do they know they've learned it?
- What do they do about those who don't know it or have already mastered it?

Ianora said that during the past six years they've been looking intensively at the third question, as that is where the most difficulty lies.

"It's a really tough question. What do I do with a kid who hasn't learned it? Do I go back and re-teach it? And if I do, what about the kid who has already mastered it? Doesn't that do them a disservice?" he queried.

These discussions led over time to the concept of Period 7. Ianora said they've been dialoguing over the issue for the past two years and began to put all the pieces in place during the last 18 months.

The way the program is designed, there are three groups of students who will have mandatory participation. Students who have one or more F's will be in guided study halls to provide them the remediation they need to bring their grade up and finish coursework.

Freshmen students will meet with teachers and upper class "link leaders" on Mondays and Wednesdays to discuss both the social and educational changes that come with being in high school. Thursdays they are allowed a "free choice" day.

Athletes are required to meet with their coaches for a guided study hall where they get a jump on their homework or seek out assistance in classes where they may be struggling.

Ianora said by focusing on freshmen and those at risk of failing a class, they give those groups the assistance they need to make it over the hump.

"In all the studies we've read about students, freshmen have the highest rate of flunking and the highest rate of dropping out," he said. "Freshman year is the hardest adjustment both socially and academically."

By the first progress report of the quarter, Ianora said as many as 150 students out of the 2,000 students at SRVHS are failing and that number can climb even higher by the time grades are posted at the end of the quarter.

"Having them (freshmen) meet with other students and faculty advisers helps them make that adjustment. We've come up with a program to help the freshman student focus and stay successful," he explained.

Those who do not fall into those categories have several choices available to them. Ianora said they can have guided study halls where they can start on homework or they can seek out teacher help, spend volunteer time tutoring, or participate in co-curricular activities such as speech or robotics.

With the three mandatory groups, attendance will be taken, but not for the rest of the students. So, what is to stop them from simply leaving

school at 2:40 p.m. each day?

"That is going to happen," Ianora said. "We expect everyone to participate, but we expect. We know kids won't always make the choice."

He added, "We have so many things. 90 percent of our students are engaged in activity, whether it's extracurricular, co-curricular or athletics. It's a very small portion of the population that will not have something to do."

Ianora said that what they are doing during the free choice days is empowering students to take a hand in their educational future. They are given the opportunity to meet with teachers during off hours, which gives them the additional help they may need to get when doing their homework at school.

The first day of Period 7 seemed to go well. Students were given an outline of what the free choice activities they could do, teachers explained which days they would be available, and freshmen met with their link leaders.

In biology teacher Penny Davis' class, link leaders split the freshmen up into groups, getting them to talk about themselves and get to know each other.

Davis said the activities allowed the students to meet and introduce themselves, helping to build social bonds. The groups were encouraged to do activities such as finding out how many fellow students had been to the same college.



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In Robin Groch's biology classroom, older students gathered. Many worked on homework assignments, some on the room's two computer terminals. Other students lined up to get additional instruction from Groch about their assignments.

Outside the school, scattered students left the campus at 2:40 p.m. One student, who asked not to be identified, said he did not think he needed to stay for Period 7 since he wasn't a freshman, an athlete or flunking any classes.

"My mom said it wasn't necessary for me to stay if I didn't want to," he stated. "There wasn't anything I needed to talk to any of my teachers about, so I left."

Ianora said he hopes that as students' interests are piqued by the various enrichment activities offered, the number of students leaving the campus will dwindle.

"We feel the benefits of this are huge. A kid is going to pick up at least another 90 minutes of remediation or direct enrichment each week. It's going to be a good thing," he enthused.

San Ramon Valley Unified School District Superintendent Steve Enoch said he is excited to see what will happen with Period 7. SRVHS is the only high school in the district attempting the guided learning period, and he is hopeful that it is going to yield real benefits for the students.

"I think what the school is doing is giving the kids some targeted assistance and giving kids choices," Enoch said. "These are all good things."

Enoch said he believes choice is invaluable to today's students who are going through school and graduating without having to make a lot of decisions. This can lead to problems when the student goes away to college and experiences that freedom to choose.

High school officials will be gauging the effectiveness of the program over the next several months and are expected to reassess it in April.

"The jury is out on this right now and the school admits that," said Enoch. "The intent is excellent, the goal is noble, and we'll see if this process comes out as they are hoping it will." ■

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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY ● POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT [WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM](http://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](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

## Events

**BLUE STAR MOMS GARAGE SALE** The Blue Star Moms are having a huge garage sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3 at Church of the Valley, 19001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 648-1549 or visit [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.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 LODGE WELLNESS

**DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: FALL PREVENTION** Diablo Lodge of Danville Wellness Department presents guest speaker Gennifer Mountain, of the Fall Prevention Program of Contra Costa County, 1-2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville. This event is free and the public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP 838-8300.

### 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.

**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](http://www.fatherfrankskids.org) or call 360-1060.

**HARVEST MOON ARTS GALA** Join us for a night of music, wine tasting, dancing, and art under a full moon. Our first annual Under the Harvest Moon Gala kicks off on Oct. 2 at the Canyon View Banquet Ballroom. Proceeds raised benefit our schools and community. Evening Includes a buffet dinner and live auction.

**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 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.

### THE CHEF'S TABLE AT VIVA CUCINA

Spend an evening with Executive Chef Shane Hammert, from Amber Bistro, in a private dinner class at Viva Cucina in Danville, 6-9 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4 at The Chef's Table, 407 Fremerey Ct., Danville. Watch while we prepare a delicious four course meal for you while sipping wine from Longevity Winemakers. The cost is \$79 per person and reservations are required. Visit [www.vivacucina.com](http://www.vivacucina.com) or call 820-6612.

## Exhibits

### 'THROUGH INDIAN EYES' AT THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON

**VALLEY** Come and join us to learn about Native American hunting and collection of food, domestic life,

daily rituals, celebration of births and deaths, dress and adornment and the use of baskets, 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley at the corner of Railroad and Prospect Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

**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](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov).

## 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](http://www.lightthenight.org/sf).

**BRIDGE TO HOPE** The Danville-based Lazarex Cancer Foundation will host a day-long musical celebration, 'Bridge to Hope,' to raise awareness and funds to continue its work of providing financial assistance for end stage cancer patients to defray the costs associated with participation in FDA- approved clinical trials. This fundraiser will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 on the Great Meadow of Fort Mason Park. Call (310)276-3063.

### CHARITY EVENT FOR GOLF FANS

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

### CITRO SALON FIGHTS HUMAN

**SLAVERY** Make an appointment at Citro Salon, voted best salon of the East Bay 2009, and all stylists will donate 100% of their proceeds to Fair Trade Fund, producers of the film Call+Response, in an effort to bring to light the world's 27 million most terrifying secrets, from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27 at Citro Salon, 200 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 855-9200 for appointment.



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**CONTRA COSTA COIN SHOW**

Come to the Contra Costa Coin Show, sponsored by the Diablo Numismatic Society, and a portion of all admission fees will be donated directly to the Contra Costa Food Bank, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11 at the Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord. Boy Scout Troop #465 will host a youth exhibit that includes free coins for children. There will be prizes and drawings for valuable coins. Admission is \$3 per person for both days and children under 12 are free. Call 351-7605 or visit [www.diablocointclub.org](http://www.diablocointclub.org).

**JDRF's 29TH ANNUAL WALK FOR A CURE** 'The Walk to Cure Diabetes' is an essential part of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual fundraising efforts to support critical Type 1 diabetes research. Join us 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 4 at Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. For information visit [www.curetype1.org](http://www.curetype1.org).

**PRIMO'S RUN FOR EDUCATION** Dust off your shoes and participate in Primo's Run for Education by doing the 5K Run/Family Fun Walk or a half-marathon starting at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 11. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation. Cost varies. To learn more and to register, call 820-9181 or visit [www.primosrun.com](http://www.primosrun.com).

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

## Garden/ Home Tours

**GREENPOINT SHOWCASE TOUR** Join the GreenPoint Showcase Tour, in partnership of Build It Green and KTVU Channel 2, a self-guided tour featuring GreenPoint rated homes throughout the Bay Area that have been built or remodeled green. From 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4. Preview the homes and purchase tickets at [www.ktvu.com/builditgreen](http://www.ktvu.com/builditgreen). Tickets go on sale Mon. 8/3. Cost is \$10. Call (510)845-0472, ext.108 or visit [www.ktvu.com/builditgreen](http://www.ktvu.com/builditgreen).

## Health

**VARICOSE VEIN TREATMENT SEMINAR** San Ramon Regional Medical Center will offer a seminar on Minimally Invasive Treatments for Varicose Veins. Dr. Soohyun Kim, vascular and endovascular specialist, will discuss new surgical and non-surgical treatments and how to reduce pain and discomfort. Varicose veins can lead to cramps and ulcers. From 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1 at South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Call (800)284-2878.

## Holiday

**KOL NIDRE** Come to the Kol Nidre observance, a non-religious program of readings, music and examination of ourselves and our communities sponsored by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, a Secular Humanistic Jewish community. Gather at 5 p.m., program begins at 5:15 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27 at Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. There will also be opportunities to donate to other charities. \$10 for non-members over 13. Call 485-1049.

## Kids & Teens

**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.

## Workshops

**TUT COMES TO DANVILLE** Friends of the Danville Library and the Town of Danville will present a lecture by Fine Arts Museum docent Kate Sculti about Tutankhamun and The Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibit in San Francisco, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7, Valley Oak Room, Danville Community Center, 400 Front St. Free.

## Miscellaneous

**2-FAMILY GARAGE SALE** Two-family garage sale!! 5 T.V.'s, ladders, men's and women's clothes, toddler toys, ORIGINAL oil paintings, beautiful rosewood buffet table from China, and much much more. Come check it out, 8 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Sept. 27, 49 Pulido Court, Danville.

## 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](http://www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com) or call 973-2787.

**SAN RAMON COMMUNITY THEATER AUDITIONS**

San Ramon Community Theater Auditions for 'Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)' to be held 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.

## Spiritual

**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**PET FESTIVAL** The Peace Lutheran Church in Danville invites you to the Blessing of the Animals Pet Festival, noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, 3201 Tassajara Rd. Individual pet blessings, animal art exhibit, crafts for kids, face painting and animal experts will be on hand. There will also be a silent auction and raffle of pet items and services. Call 648-7000. All pets must be on a leash or contained at all times.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** At 2 p.m., Oct. 3, bring your furry, feathered, and four-legged friends to San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville, for a special blessing to honor the feast of St. Francis. This event is free. Call 837-9141 ext. 315 or visit [www.sandamiano.org](http://www.sandamiano.org). The Friars of San Damiano Retreat will bless all animals by the statue of St. Francis. Free and open to the public. San Damiano Retreat, Danville.

**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.

**YOUNG ADULT DAY - "BE THE**

**CHANGE YOU SEEK** Please join other young adults from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. This will be a day of interaction, reflection, fellowship & activities as we provide a foundation for creating that internal change which each of us needs. Registration begins at 9 a.m.,

Saturday, Oct. 10. Presented by the Young Adult Leadership Team. Cost is \$45. Call 837-9141 ext. 315.

## Sports

**2010 SOFTBALL REGISTRATION IS**

**OPEN!** Registration is now open for the upcoming 2010 SRVGAL softball season. Please visit our web site [www.srvgal.org](http://www.srvgal.org) and save \$50 if you register before Sunday, Nov. 1. Girls are placed in grade based divisions.

**ADULT SOFTBALL** Adult Softball plays pickup softball at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round. New members welcome. Call Bob Randall at 855-4646 for more information.



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# Coins for a Cure

*Small change adds up to big bucks to help juvenile diabetes research*

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

See that change sitting on your dresser? Add it to everyone else's spare coins in the School District and you'll have one big chunk of change.

That was the reasoning of district nurse Sharon Dodson and the moms in the Juvenile Diabetes Support Group when they started Coins for a Cure eight years ago. They timed it to coincide with a walk for the cause held every year at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek in October.

"We've raised between \$10,000 and \$20,000 each year," said Dodson. "It's a very well run machine now."

Coins for a Cure started at Rancho Romero Elementary School the first year to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

"We put little cups in each classroom and asked the teachers to ask the kids to bring in spare change," recalled Nancy Riley, an Alamo resident whose second-grade son Alex had just been diagnosed at that time.

In the beginning Dodson and the volunteer moms spent many hours hand-rolling the coins into little paper tubes and driving around collecting the donations in private cars. Then they discovered Brinks.

The effort grew and grew until now 24 schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District participate. Some schools organize activities — such as coin tosses and competitions — during the campaign, which takes place this year from Monday, Sept. 28 to Friday, Oct. 9.

The organizers borrow the big truck from Realtor Terry McDaniel and go from school to school picking up the small containers for two weeks.

"They're surprisingly heavy. We can't carry more than four," noted Riley. Families also donate bills and checks to the cause.

The women put the containers in the back of the truck and process the contents, taking out miscellaneous objects such as paperclips, buttons and all the stuff that gets thrown into a drawer along with spare change.

"We put the coins into big moneybags, fill them up, and drive them to Alameda where Brinks has a coin processing facility," said Riley. "They process \$14 million in coins a day for banks all over area."

"We have to call first and then we back the truck down," explained Dodson. "When they open the door there is a man holding a rifle."

A lift is used to remove the money bags, and the staff immediately puts the coins from the schools into a sorter.

"They stop a machine, put in coins, and electronically send the money directly to JDRF," said Riley. "There is no middle man."

Brinks donates its services. "They do it because they're such nice guys," said Riley, noting that they even take random coins that have fallen on the floor and add it to their pile.

Dodson said that at this time about 70 students in the School District have juvenile diabetes.

"The majority of our kids are on insulin



COURTESY COINS FOR A CURE

School District nurse Sharon Dodson (right) delivers moneybags containing hundreds of thousands of donated Coins for a Cure to Brinks employees to be automatically counted and donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

pumps now, which makes their lives easier, and they have more choices in food," she said. Dodson meets with parents and their child's teachers at the beginning of the school year to form a team to watch out for the child's well-being.

The coin campaign to benefit JDRF is also a chance to educate children about juvenile diabetes: It is not caused by eating too much sugar, excessive weight or lifestyle. Children with diabetes must check their blood sugar many times a day, wear an insulin pump or take an average of four insulin shots a day, as well as closely monitor their food and exercise. There is no cure. For more information, visit [jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org).

Funds have also been contributed to Children's Hospital Oakland and the Diabetic Youth Foundation, which sponsors camps.

"The majority of our kids have spent

time at Children's Hospital when they are diagnosed and we like to be able to support them," explained Dodson.

The campaign is also enjoyable, said Riley.

"It's so fun, I can't even tell you — driving all over town and hoisting the moneybags around. And it's so exciting to see them add up," she said.

"We do a 'last call,' and the teachers will send in these little first- or second-graders who give me plastic baggies with maybe seven coins. They'll say, 'This is for the cure.' It's so cute. They really do believe that. It's rewarding."

"Over the years we've collected millions of coins," she added. "We've received over \$100,000 just from kids alone."

"This demonstrates," she added, "that little things add up." ■



## A lot of spare change

In 2007, a total of 436,885 Coins for a Cure were collected, with the breakdown as follows:

- Pennies - 303,417
- Nickels - 37,985
- Dimes - 57,868
- Quarters - 37,580
- Half dollars - 35

They all added up to \$20,274.72 to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Anyone can donate coins, dollar bills or checks at the School District office, 699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville. Mark donations to the attention of Adrienne Keeling in the Educational Services Department. Donations can also be charged at [jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org).

# EPICURE



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## Lettuce go green

In my humble opinion lettuce greens are essential to any and every diet regimen. In fact, a healthy diet should include fresh salad greens three to five times per week — or more. By definition, a green salad is composed of greens torn or cut into bite-sized pieces with a dressing, vegetables, toppings and garnishes. So, starting with a solid foundation — the freshest and healthiest of fresh greens — is the best beginning of a great salad.

Varieties of lettuce have been around since the earliest of cultures. According to Wikipedia: "Lettuce was considered an aphrodisiac in ancient Egypt. Later, Ancient Greek physicians believed lettuce could act as a sleep-inducing agent. The Romans cultivated it, and it eventually made its way to the Papal Court in France." And, supposedly, Christopher Columbus introduced lettuce to the New World.

There are several families of lettuce varieties:

- Butterhead forms loose heads. Its leaves have a buttery texture. Popular varieties include Boston, Bibb and Buttercrunch.
- Looseleaf has tender, delicate, and mildly flavored leaves. This group includes oak leaf and leaf lettuce. Leaf lettuce has a mild, delicate flavor while red-tip lettuce has a tender, sweet flavor.
- Romaine, or Cos, has large, crisp leaves and a slightly sharp flavor.
- Crisphead, or iceberg, grows in dense heads that resemble cabbage. They are the mildest of lettuces, known more for their crunchy texture more than for flavor. Note that these lettuces have a high water content with very little nutrient value.
- Many other varieties of greens are used in salads, including:
  - Swiss chard has large stems with a delicate flavor similar to celery; leaves have a hearty spinach-like flavor.
  - Arugula, or Rocket, has a peppery, pungent flavor that is an ideal contrast when mixed with milder greens.
  - Curly endive has a mildly bitter flavor and adds visual interest to salads.
  - Radicchio is bitter and peppery-tasting when eaten alone, but small amounts add a nice accent

...He knows how to make his case with carefully-reasoned storytelling and plaintive questions...

READ MORE/COMMENT

**TownSquare Forum**

## Recipe

### Wilted Arugula Salad

(serves 2-4)

- 4 slices bacon
- 1-1/2 Tbsp red wine or raspberry vinegar
- 2 boiled eggs, sliced
- Large bunch of arugula, washed and spun dry
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Fry bacon, reserving the fat. Pat bacon with a paper towel and chop.
2. Place cleaned arugula in large bowl. Add hard-boiled eggs, salt, pepper, vinegar, and chopped bacon. Toss salad with warm bacon fat.
3. Serve immediately with a thick slice of crusty French bread, toasted with butter.

### Mache Salad with Pear, Goat Cheese and Walnuts

Dress mache with walnut oil dressing; sprinkle 1/2 cup of walnut pieces. Serve with wedges of ripe pear and creamy French goat cheese.

#### Walnut Oil Vinaigrette

- 1-1/2 Tbsp sherry vinegar or tarragon vinegar
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 6 Tbsp roasted walnut oil (or a mixture of walnut and extra virgin olive oils)
- Salt & freshly milled pepper

Combine the vinegar, shallots, and 1/4 tsp salt in a bowl and let stand for 15 minutes. Stir in the mustard; then add the oil. Whisk well until the dressing is thick and smooth; season with pepper. Taste dressing and adjust the amount of vinegar or oil as needed.

See more recipes at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)



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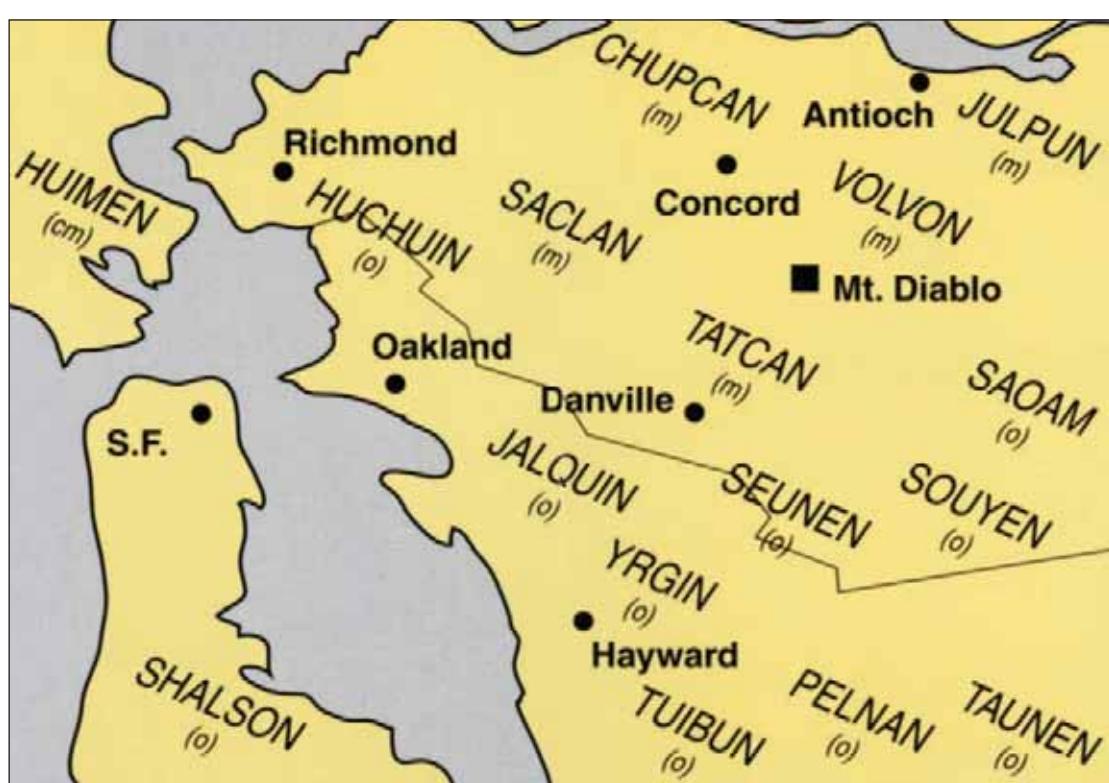
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# PRESENTING THE PAST

BY BEVERLY LANE



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

This map of tribal locations of Indians in the Bay Area was developed by James Bennyhoff in 1977, based on historic documents and mission registers. Letters in parentheses indicate language affiliations (cm=Coast Miwok, m=Bay Miwok, pm=Plains Miwok, o=Ohlone, p=Patwin, y=Yokuts).

## Indian burials reveal first people

In recent years, evidence of Indian burials has been unearthed in Danville, around Mountain Mike's Pizza on Hartz Avenue and at San Ramon Valley High School. People are very interested in these finds and want to know more about these people. What tribe did they belong to? How long ago did they live here?

From archeological digs and carbon dating, we know that people lived in the San Ramon Valley for over 5,000 years. Ethno-historians believe people lived in the larger Bay Area for about 10,000 years. Discoveries in Alamo when the I-680 freeway was excavated, in Danville by the Old Oak when the first office buildings were constructed, and in East County when the Contra Costa Water District built the Los Vaqueros dam have all yielded fascinating finds.

A basic reference book, "The Handbook of North American Indians, California," provides excellent information about the Bay Area's early settlers. One page shows drawings of artifacts found in Danville at CCo-229, the specific archeological site number. Beads, abalone ornaments, charmstones, spear and arrow points, deer bone awls, pestles, mortars and bone whistles are shown. Examples of these items are currently on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, donated to the museum by individuals over many years.

Just this month Jim Cozens, who was San Ramon Valley High School principal from 1963-1975,

brought two Indian artifacts to the museum. When he was building his house on Camino Encanto in 1954, his landscaper George Brazil got soil from an area between Hartz Avenue and San Ramon Creek, the location of today's Mountain Mike's Pizza. This is site CCo-229.

When Brazil poured the topsoil out, two stone artifacts were found. One was a nicely formed, broken pestle about four inches long. It would have been used to pound seeds or acorns in a stone mortar. Another was a charmstone, again nicely formed. While we don't know the detailed purposes of these charmstones, they are said to be amulets and were worked by Indians in several different forms. Alfred Kroeber and other anthropologists believe the charmstones had sacred purposes, promoted fertility or provided good luck in hunting. Three types of charmstones from the Valley are on display at the museum.

Around 250 years ago several tribes lived in the San Ramon Valley. One tribe, called by the Spanish the Tatcan, lived in the drainage area of the San Ramon Creek watershed, which flowed north. They belonged to the Bay Miwok linguistic group.

Other tribes, the Seunen and Souyen, lived in San Ramon and Dublin. Their territory included the Alamo, Tassajara and South San Ramon Creeks, which flowed south into a vast marsh area. They spoke an Ohlone (also called Costanoan) language. The Bay Miwok and Ohlone linguistic areas appear to have met around today's Norris Canyon Road. Randy Milliken's research revealed marriages between members of these tribes, indicating they were probably friendly.

Sources: Robert F. Heizer (ed.), "California, Handbook of North American Indians" (Vol. 8); Malcolm Margolin, "The Ohlone Way"; Randy Milliken, "A Time of Little Choice: The Distintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1769-1810"; Alfred L. Kroeber, "Handbook of the Indians of California"; museum archives.

**Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories."**

## OF NOTE



### Helping orphans play baseball

Alamo resident Sabrina Dunbar, a fifth-grader at St. Isidore School in Danville, and a group of friends collected gently used youth baseball equipment and shipped it to orphans in Latin America. Last year children from Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos orphanage in Nicaragua came to perform their music at the Father Frank's Kids Fiesta at St. Isidore's Church, and Sabrina's family hosted two of the children. They visited the home of the San Francisco Giants, which the visitors said was the highlight of their trip. They said they yearned to play the sport but did not have any equipment. Sabrina, along with the Oswald family, set out to collect equipment from Little Leagues and schools, and gathered enough to create two complete teams at orphanages in El Salvador and Nicaragua. They will continue to ship youth baseball equipment. To make a donation, call 216-1828, e-mail baseball20084u@yahoo.com, or visit www.fieldofdreamsffk.giving.officelive.com.



### Interact provides backpacks

Sonia Zaninovich, secretary for the Interact club at Monte Vista High School, revels in the 50-plus backpacks that club members collected to donate to needy students in Contra Costa. The collection was part of their participation in Project Ready-to-Learn. Monte Vista Interact Club is affiliated with Alamo Rotary Club, with Beth Burlingame-Randall and Patti Carothers as advisers.



### Eagle Scouts honored

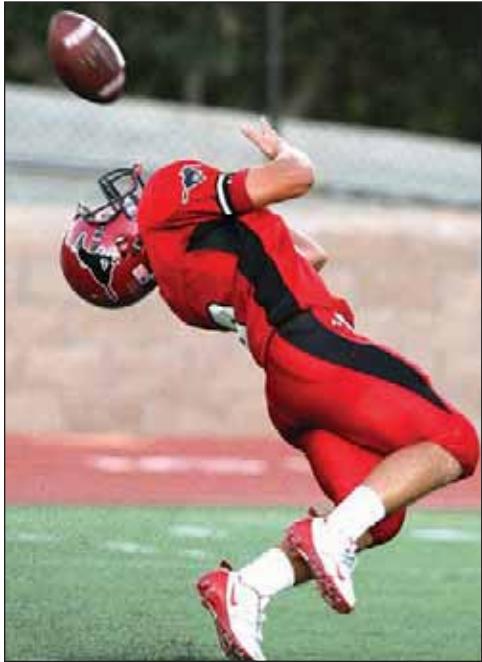
Stephan Knaus and Ryan Slep recently had their Eagle Court of Honor. Slep's project was to build three picnic benches and to refurbish one picnic bench for St. Isidore's kindergarten class, which took more than 350 hours. He graduated from St. Isidore himself in 2006, and is now a senior at San Ramon Valley High School. Knaus' project was to reconstruct benches in the art courtyard at Stone Valley Middle School, where he graduated in 2006. His project took more than 270 hours. Knaus is a senior at Monte Vista High School.

# Sports



## Parent photographers

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



CHRIS SCOTT/  
[WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM](http://WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM)

### Mustangs prevail over Pittsburg High

Monte Vista Mustangs wide receiver Bryce McGovern makes an over-the-shoulder catch for a big gain against Pittsburg High last Friday. The Mustangs won, 45-25.

See more photos at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)



### Revolution reaches finals

The Mustang Revolution U9 boys D3 soccer team reached the championship game, placing second in the 2009 Devil Mountain Tournament held Sept. 5-6 in Danville. Outstanding team work and effort was displayed by everyone including (front row) Joe Giagiari, (middle, l-r) Matthew Hoffman, Cooper Page, Christo Eikani, RJ Millington, Clay Facticeau, John Karczewski, Peter Mazzetti, Tyler Koenig, Ryder Martin, (not pictured) Ryan Thiermann, (back) coaches Gerry Karczewski and Peter Mazzetti. Not pictured: Ryan Thiermann.



### Working their Magic

The U12 Mustang Magic wowed their home crowd by taking second place in the Mustang Devil Mountain tournament during Labor Day weekend. The Magic has been successful by placing in every tournament they have been in. Team members are (back row, l-r) Head coach Vanessa Hodge, Sophia Friedler, Kayley Hannan, Jessi Pritt, Ali Panconi, Hannah Platter, Jenny Sharpe, Coach Russ Miller, Coach Mike Panconi, (front) Marissa Ugarte, Kacie Miller, Emma Reynolds, Aubrey Martinez, Sophia Casatico, Maria Huether, Jenna Noonan, Sydney Finkel and Samantha Levy. Not pictured: Nia Lewis.

## PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 25

### FOOTBALL

- San Ramon Valley vs. Concord, 7 p.m.

- Monte Vista vs. Heritage, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26

### CROSS COUNTRY

- Monte Vista at Stanford Invitational

Tuesday, Sept. 29

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

- San Ramon Valley at Granada, 4 p.m.

- Monte Vista vs. Cal High

### MEN'S WATER POLO

- San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 6 p.m.

- Monte Vista at Livermore, 6 p.m.

### WOMEN'S WATER POLO

- San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 4 p.m.

- Monte Vista at Livermore, 4 p.m.

### WOMEN'S GOLF

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

- Monte Vista at Foothill, 3:30 p.m.

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- San Ramon Valley vs. Amador Valley

- Monte Vista vs. Granada, 6 p.m.

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**Danville, 811 Tunbridge Road, Sep. 26, 8-12**  
Team Garage Sale to Benefit SRVHS Men's Water Polo.

**Pleasanton, 1315 Kollin Street, Sat. Sept. 26, 9-12**  
Couch for sale in great condition, toys, bikes, stationary bike, home furnishings, twin bed with rail. Lots of great stuff!

**Pleasanton, 400 E. Angels Street, 26 & 27, 9-4**  
Garage Sale of household items, general items and misc items.

**Pleasanton, 5144 Independence Drive, Sept. 26 7-1**  
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**Pleasanton, 5200 Case Ave, Sept 26 10-4**  
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**TAKE US ALONG**

**Fabulous safari:** Dave and Gayle Christensen of Alamo enjoy their Weekly while on safari in Kenya.

**PET OF THE WEEK****Fantastic Frasier**

Meet Frasier, a black puff ball otherwise known as a Pomeranian. Look at that happy face! Frasier is a 5-year-old, neutered male Pomeranian who loves everyone. He would be fine for a first time dog owner. Frasier has a bushy black coat of fur so he will require regular grooming. He weighs about 25 pounds and he is a friendly little guy. Frasier gets along well with most other dogs, and he may be polite to cats if properly introduced. He loves treats and he will need daily walks or play sessions to work off all his energy. Visit Frasier at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. See additional photos of Frasier at [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org).

