

# Danville Weekly

**Sully insights:** 'Mrs. Sully' tells how fame has impacted the family **PAGE 5**

**Get ready, get set:** Primo's Run for Education takes off Sunday, Oct. 11 **PAGE 17**

**INSIDE**

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the times they are a-changin'

New online edition will begin Monday to deliver the news to e-mail inboxes five days a week.

PAGE 13

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# Streetwise

ASKED AT THE SAN RAMON VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## How do you get along with someone who doesn't get along with you?



**Alyssa Gerontides**  
eighth-grader

If I'm trying to get along with someone who doesn't get along with me, I'll show respect to them. I won't, however, give in to anything I don't think is right or against my principles. If I can help them in any way by example, I will.

**Anthony Villella**  
athletic director, history teacher

The hardest thing to do is to kill the conflict with kindness, but it really is the only way, besides praying for them to resolve it peacefully. We're often too ready to go to war, and it takes patience to get along with adversaries.



**John Rodriguez**  
eighth-grader

If they're not necessarily nice to me, I extend my kindness to them. I don't try to get even. If something is said to me that I don't like, I try to ignore it. I try to be friendly toward them, and eventually they might become a friend.

**Alex Atterbury**  
administrative assistant

It's important to try to understand their perspective and be as patient as possible. Ultimately, I think the goal is to love those around you whether it's difficult or easy.



**Jan Brunkal**  
principal

I think it's a matter of understanding people and their perspective. In my position, I encounter people who might be irritated about something and not necessarily upset with me. They just want to be heard. Therefore, dealing with people means you need to be a listener. As a Christian, I think it's important that I value people, whether they agree with me or not..

— Compiled by Stan Wharton

## About the Cover

This is the last print edition of the Danville Weekly as we move forward with DanvilleExpress.com, which will be delivered five days a week into e-mail inboxes. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

Vol. V, Number 23

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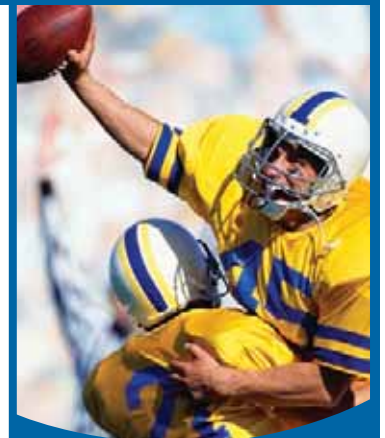
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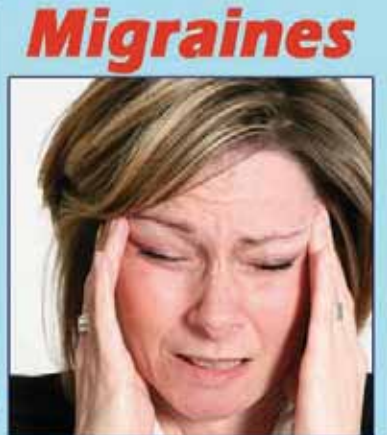
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- Lucy, Danville

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We turned on the TV and sat in silence as our world, as we knew it, started to shift.”

**Lorrie Sullenberger** recalling how she learned about her husband landing Flight 1549 on the Hudson River in January. See story, PAGE 5.

## NEWS DIGEST

### Shimansky Memorial Service tomorrow

Everyone is invited to turn out Saturday for a memorial service honoring former Danville Town Councilman Michael Shimansky. Mr. Shimansky passed away Sept. 15 as a result of bacterial meningitis.

The service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road. It will be outdoors so residents are encouraged to bring a blanket or a folding chair as seating will be limited.

### Go to school in a fire truck

Kids! Use your imagination, and draw and color in the form provided by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. It's on page 21 in this paper. The picture page can also be printed out from a computer. Go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com and follow the directions.

The Fire District, the Danville Weekly and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District are sponsoring this fire-safety contest, and the prize is a ride to school in a fire truck. Sorry, it's for elementary school children only.

### Turkey hunting on TV

Vince Rosdahl of Danville will appear on "Turkey Call," a hunting series produced by the National Wild Turkey Federation, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3. Rosdahl and his fellow NWTF board of directors will be shown hunting Merriam's gobblers in Wyoming. "Turkey Call" takes viewers on weekly trips across North America in search of the wild turkey. To learn more, log on to www.nwtf.org or call (800) 843-6983.

### Bike odyssey for Sentinels

A dozen bicyclists — at least one of whom is a wounded military veteran — left San Francisco early Tuesday morning on a 544-mile journey to Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. The bikers are raising money for the Sentinels of Freedom, a San Ramon-based foundation that help wounded military veterans transition back into society. Sentinels find jobs, transportation and housing for the vets, and provide a college scholarship. A team of volunteers and civic leaders act as the "guardian angels" support group for these Sentinels.

"It's pretty darn special to us," said Mike Conklin, CEO of the Sentinels of Freedom, who attended the kick-off rally. "We can't thank you enough. It creates awareness of our mission."

For more information or to donate, visit www.SentinelsOfFreedom.org. To learn more about the ride, go to www.TheCaliforniaTour.org.

### Mayor's Morning on Friday

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich will hold his next monthly Mayor's Morning at 7:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 9. 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.

### Teen Esteem dinner

Teen Esteem, a nonprofit group that helps young people make wise choices, will be holding a benefit dinner at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Oak Hill Community Center, 3005 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Guest speakers will be Ken and Pam Rogers, who lost their teenage son a year ago through tragic circumstances; they want to share their story with parents in hopes of preventing this from happening to other adolescents. The organization hosts speakers to reach middle and high school students throughout the Valley to encourage them to make good choices regarding high-risk behavior. It also holds parent education events.

Reserve seats by Oct. 10 by e-mail to events@teenesteem.com or by mailing a check to Teen Esteem; P.O. Box 966; Danville 94526.

### Danville 'Parachute' author to speak

Danville resident Richard Bolles, author of "What Color Is Your Parachute?," will be the keynote speaker at the Career ReBoot Camp to be held Oct. 26-27 in San Rafael. The event also will present more than 30 of the nation's top career experts.

Cost to attend the Career ReBoot Camp is \$249 (tax deductible). To register, go to www.CareerReBootCamp.com.



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## Stadium to get new light poles

*Replacement won't impact football season at SRV High*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Earlier in the year, coaches of the San Ramon Valley High School football team were scrambling to deal with the possibility of being without a football stadium this season. But officials now say the replacement of light poles on the athletic field will wait until the end of the year.

Principal Joe Ianora said an inspection was held at the start of the school year.

"We talked to the facilities people about having someone take a look at the light poles at the athletic fields," he explained. "Whenever you have things hanging over people's heads you have to be cautious."

Ianora said the initial report came back saying that the poles were in need of replacement and should be taken down immediately. This would have adversely affected the school's football season as many of the team's home games are played under the lights.

"We asked for a second opinion," Ianora said. "We closed the field until they could do the second examination, but they did do further tests and what they decided is the current poles are OK to stand until they can get the replacements. There isn't any safety hazard."

The field was closed for six days while the tests were conducted. Ianora said he was pleased with the response he got from the various coaches when there was a potential of losing their night games.

"Everybody was very much accommodating to get this issue worked out," he said. "We had all these options, and the coaches were right there working with us to get it done."

Once the football season ends, the poles will come down and be replaced. The \$750,000 replacement cost will come out of Measure A facilities funds recently approved by the SRVUSD School Board. ■



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

## Winning putt, winning smile

Sophie Gustafson of Sweden smiles after sinking a putt to win the CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge for the fifth LPGA win in her career, although her last was in 2003. The tournament concluded Sunday at Blackhawk. "It feels fantastic to win. It's one of my bests," said Gustafson, who takes home a purse of \$165,000.

## How high can our test scores go?

*State API index shows 13-point increase*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Statewide figures released earlier this month show that from 2008-09, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District showed a gain of 13 points on its Academic Performance Index (API) Report.

School Superintendent Steven Enoch said he was excited to get the news from the state regarding the district's performance last year.

"Honestly, it's just very impressive," he said. "To have a district achieving at the level we already were to be making the gains we keep making is very encouraging."

SRVUSD went from a score of 901 in 2008 to 914 in 2009, according to the API report. In California, schools are required to reach a minimum level of 800 on the performance index.

API scores are derived from student performance on statewide academic testing. Each year, schools prepare students for the annual Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test. The STAR test measures students' knowledge of language arts, math, science and social studies. It is designed to provide a standardized level of learning for all public schools in the state.

Enoch said that he is excited to see the API number continue to climb and he attributes that to several factors.

"You do pay attention to what is assessed. We focus a lot of our time and energy around the standards," he stated. "The standards in California are considered to be fairly rigorous."

Enoch said focusing on those

standards is a good thing as he feels they are foundational skills that are the cornerstone of building academic excellence.

He added that students in a district like SRVUSD have some advantage because their parents are highly educated and value their children receiving a sound education.

At a recent Board of Education meeting where the API scores were discussed, Board Member Greg Marvel pointed out that SRVUSD stands at or near the top in a number of areas.

"Besides being sixth overall in the state, we're No. 1 among English learners in the state," Marvel stated. "We're fourth overall in Asian scores in the state. No. 1 in Northern California, tied with one other district."

Figures released in the API report show that the district was first in the Bay Area for African American groups and second in Northern California. In special education, Marvel said SRVUSD was second in the state.

"We're doing a phenomenal job among those groups identified as being a part of the achievement gap," he said.

Enoch said the scores are good and he is pleased to see continued improvement, but they will not stop seeking to better their scores.

"The way you continue to make improvement in API, especially at the level we are at, is not by stretching the top kids," he said. "It's by finding those kids who are below the bar and helping them to get over." ■

## Life in the spotlight

*Lorrie Sullenberger offers humor, insights into sudden fame*

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Since a miraculous landing and rescue earlier this year, the name Sullenberger has become a familiar one both here and abroad.

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger was the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 heading from LaGuardia Airport to Charlotte, N.C. The flight struck a flock of geese and Sullenberger was forced to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River. All 155 passengers and crew survived the experience.

Since that day, life has been different for Sullenberger and his family. In a speech to more than 100 people at the Alamo Women's Club on Sept. 16, Lorrie Sullenberger, a fitness expert and personal trainer, detailed just how different it's become.

In a luncheon address entitled, "Are you ready?" she talked about the accident, her husband's actions and the af-

termath. With a wry smile she described how on the afternoon of Jan. 15 she was in a pitch meeting with television executives regarding a fitness show when her husband began trying to call her.

"We were on the phone when Sully first began to call," she recalled. "He first called on my cell, which I ignored."

But she said that when he continued to call on both of the landlines to the home and the cell phone she told the executives that she should probably take the call.

"I was trying to be so professional, and not just be a wife who takes her husband's call," she explained.

Moments later he had laid out what had happened, that he was OK, and that he would not be home that night. After getting off the phone, she turned on the TV and began watching the coverage of the safe landing of Flight 1549.

"It was a completely unreal feeling

to know that that was his voice on the phone and the images I was seeing on the TV," she said. "My body started to shake violently and I sat down."

At a friend's urging she went and picked up her daughters, and they returned to the family's Danville home to await further word on the man the media would dub, "The Hero of the Hudson."

"We turned on the TV and sat in silence as our world, as we knew it, started to shift."

She described the barrage of calls, e-mails and faxes from news organizations all over the world as "like having a firehose turned straight on you."

She then spoke of the media siege of the family's home and how she was forced to call in a public relations firm to handle the onslaught of reporters and photographers. She drew laughter and applause from the crowd when she

See **SPOTLIGHT** on Page 7



GEOFF GILLETTE

Lorrie Sullenberger describes how the family has lived through a whirlwind of media attention and high profile appearances after her husband's miraculous landing saved 155 lives.

## Illegal cooking setup sparks blaze

*Two-alarm fire results in \$500,000 damage*

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

A propane cooking arrangement set up in a garage is being blamed for a fire in a San Ramon home. Crews from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District were called out to a home at 206 Arden Court shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday after both residents and neighbors reported the blaze.

The first crews on the scene reported the garage and second floor of the home heavily involved with fire. Fire District spokeswoman Kim French said firefighters immediately began an aggressive interior attack. A combination of factors hampered firefighters in getting the blaze under control.

"The extreme heat and complexity of this fire made it a challenge," said Battalion Chief Michael Brown. "The crews were able to knock the fire down and prevent the spread to neighboring homes."

The homeowners were there at the time of the fire and escaped with only minor injuries. French said one person was treated for minor burns but declined transportation to the hospital.

A total of six engines, two trucks, a paramedic ambulance and one breathing unit were



LUCAS HIRST

An illegal cooking set-up in the garage of this home on Arden Court started a fire which spread through the garage and up into the second floor of the home.

dispatched to the scene as well as four chief officers and two fire investigators.

Investigators determined that the cause of the fire was a propane fueled cooking arrangement set up in the garage. Damage has been estimated at \$400,000 to the structure and \$100,000 in contents.

"We remind our residents to use approved cooking areas,"

said French. "It's also important to remain in the kitchen when you're frying, grilling or boiling food."

French said they recommend keeping a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen, and noted that adults must know how to use it. Information on fire extinguishers and fire safety can be found at [www.firedepartment.org](http://www.firedepartment.org). ■

## Investigators seeking suspects in several fires

*Fires were set along Iron Horse Trail and nearby neighborhoods in San Ramon*

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Fire crews were kept busy in the late night hours last weekend, as unknown persons set a number of fires in San Ramon.

Firefighters responded to multiple calls of fires that had been intentionally set between 11 p.m. Saturday evening and 1:20 a.m. Sunday morning, said San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District spokeswoman Kim French.

"The fires do appear to be related," French said. "Fire crews responded to two vehicle fires, five outside fires and one structure fire all in that couple of hours."

All of the fires occurred in San Ramon and were within a few blocks of the Iron Horse Trail, where the five outside fires were ignited. Those five fires were reported between Montevideo Drive and Pine Valley Road.

The two vehicle fires were reported on Greenwich Drive and Kimball Avenue. Firefighters were able to get them under control a short time after arrival.

The lone structure fire required a second alarm to be pulled. French said the fire was called in after residents at the home at 77 Elmwood Drive were awoken by their smoke

alarm. Initial belief is that a hay bale decoration on the home's front porch was set on fire, which spread to the home and up into the attic.

A total of six engines, one paramedic ambulance and one breathing unit were dispatched. Three chief officers, two safety officers and two investigators were also sent to the scene.

Firefighters did a major salvage and overhaul of the attic to ensure the fire was completely out. The total damage amount from all of the fire incidents has been set at \$250,000.

Fire Investigator Natalie Kurtz said the initial determination was that the fires were arson and they are looking for suspects.

"We will work alongside the San Ramon Police Department to investigate what looks to be multiple arson sets within this two-hour period," Kurtz stated.

Information on how the fires were set has not been released pending the completion of the investigation.

Anyone with information on the suspicious fires is urged to contact either the Fire District at 838-6600 or the San Ramon Police Department at 973-2700. ■

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## SPOTLIGHT

Continued from Page 5

talked about what life is like being under a microscope 24 hours a day.

"Like I tell people, you just can't have that many good hair days in a row," she joked.

While the media frenzy was problematic in many ways, it also made for some fun and interesting moments. Sullenberger told a story of how she was talking to the producers of the Jay Leno show when her daughter walked in talking on her cell phone.

"I touched her with my finger and told her that I was on the phone with the Jay Leno people and she did this (pointing her finger at the cell phone), 'Matt Lauer: I said, 'OK, you win.'"

This led to interviews on 60 Minutes, seats at the Superbowl, the Oscars and the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

"My initial impressions were that President Obama has the softest hands of any person I've ever met," she recounted.

Sully has achieved "Santa Claus status," she also informed the crowd. Mail addressed just to "Sully" finds its way to their home.

But her address touched on areas that had little to do with fame as well. She talked about the first time she saw Sully after the accident. She described a man who viewed himself differently from the hero being presented to the world.



GEOFF GILLETTE

Lorrie Sullenberger speaks at the Alamo Women's Club about her experiences since she and her family were thrust into the spotlight.

"That was the weird part of all that," she said. "The world was celebrating, but he felt like first of all he wasn't supposed to end up in the Hudson. He struggled with, 'Oh my god, I'm responsible for that.'"

Overall, though, she said the family has adjusted and adapted to its change in status. From the well wishers seeking autographs to the mountains of mail they still receive months later.

"There is power in a worldwide feel-good moment," she said. "And Sully, and to some degree our family, was the face of that feel-good moment." ■

## Sully to return to duty with US Airways

Pilot also ready to begin book tour soon

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

More changes are in store for Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger in the coming weeks. During her address to the Alamo Women's Club last week, Lorrie Sullenberger announced that her husband would be returning to the air soon as a pilot for US Airways, and he would also be starting a tour soon to promote his new book.

On Monday, US Airways officials confirmed that Sullenberger would indeed be returning to the cockpit, once again taking on the role which made him famous worldwide.

In addition to his duties as a management pilot, Sullenberger also has been asked by US Airways to join its flight operations safety management team.

"We welcome Capt. Sullenberger back to work and are proud to have him flying with us again as a member of the US Airways safety management organization," said Chairman and CEO Doug Parker. Sullenberger was scheduled to return to the helm of a US Airways jet Thursday, alongside co-pilot Jeff Skiles.

Lorrie Sullenberger said that also in October her husband will be kicking off a tour to promote his new book, "Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters."

The tour is expected to begin Oct. 12 with an appearance on the Today Show. Two Danville appearances have already been scheduled: 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 19, at Rakestraw Books on Hartz Avenue; and 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Danville Costco on Fostoria Way. Sullenberger will be signing copies of his book at the two local appearances. ■

## Multiple agencies looking for Danville flasher

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

A man being sought by Danville police in connection with two different acts of indecent exposure is also a suspect in two other areas for similar occurrences.

All three incidents happened in the space of four days. The first reported incident happened Sept. 18 on the Iron Horse Trail in Danville. Two groups of girls walking home from Los Cerros Middle School observed a man jogging on the trail who pulled up his shorts to expose himself as he ran past.

The following Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 21 and 22, college students at St. Mary's College in Moraga reported seeing a man with a similar description who exposed himself. On Sept. 22, Orinda police received a report of a man exposing himself to students.

In all cases, the man was described as a white male, 35-45 years old, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall. Reportedly, the suspect drives a dark gray Infiniti G35.

Danville police are continuing to seek a suspect in the case. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Police Department at 314-3700. ■

## Sheriff Rupf announces retirement

Contra Costa's 'top cop' to step down after 45 years with department

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Veteran Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren Rupf has announced that he will not be seeking another term in office, sparking discussions over who will seek the position of the county's Top Cop.

Rupf made his announcement last week, with more than a year left in his current term in office. The 66-year-old has been with the Sheriff's Office for more than four decades, starting as a deputy and working his way up through the ranks.

The Sheriff's Office has come under heavy criticism in the past several weeks after it was learned that a deputy failed to follow up on a citizen report that could have led to the discovery of recovered kidnap victim Jaycee Dugard three years ago.

Rupf offered a public apology after the information came to light, but has said that the incident and its negative impact on the department are not the reasons that he will be stepping down.

"This early announcement should not be taken as evidence that I've lost interest, enthusiasm or that I will not participate in a very direct and active fashion in all of our business," he said.

He explained that making the announcement early will allow members of the Sheriff's Office to prepare for a change in leadership and to allow ample time for other members of the law enforcement community

to express interest in taking over the reins of the department.

"It is, however, timely that I do this so that the organization — after all our business is our overrid-

ing concern — will have an opportunity to make those adjustments in anticipation of a change at the

See RUPF on Page 9

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Geraldine Arata, creator of Latin Strings in oil, will have her work displayed at Art in the Park.

## Art in the Park this weekend

Looking for art? Or just an enjoyable day? Check out the 11th annual Art in the Park Fine Arts Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 3-4, on the Danville Town Green, in front of the Library at 400 Front St.

More than 60 booths will display paintings, ceramics, photography, fine jewelry and textiles. The Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley High Jazz Bands will play music, and food and wine will be available at the free event.

A children's art table will give kids the chance to make a masterpiece to take home, supplies compliments of the Alamo-Danville Artists' Society. The San Ramon Valley Museum will have its kiddie

train available for rides.

Art in the Park is sponsored by ADAS and the Town of Danville. It is a fundraiser for art in the schools of the San Ramon Valley. All artists donate a percentage of sales to the Art in the Schools fund, which is distributed to local elementary and middle school teachers for specific art projects. Almost \$100,000 has been raised by ADAS events.

In conjunction with Art in the Park is the "Inside Art Show" in the Community Center, with art by members of ADAS and artists who have booths in the park. Judge will be Nikki Bash-Davis, artist and teacher.

For a list of artists with booths, visit [DanvilleWeekly.com](http://DanvilleWeekly.com). ■

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# DIABLO VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## A comfortable chair, a cup of coffee and thou

This is it. My final column in the Danville Weekly, which this week concludes its print edition.

Sure, I'll be online with my editor's blog because I will continue to be the online editor for our DanvilleExpress.com, which replaces the old Danville Weekly Web site. I'm also online editor for the SanRamonExpress. But anyone can post their words online: That's both the beauty and the scourge of the Internet. On the other hand, it takes a special set of circumstances to have one's words come out in print.

What fun it has been to be the founding editor of the Danville Weekly. (It's not so great to be the "final" editor.) To be a founding editor is every journalist's dream.

I was managing editor at our sister paper, the Pleasanton Weekly, when I was asked in early 2005 to be at the helm of the proposed Danville Weekly. How exciting it was that April when art director Shannon Corey designed the new paper based on her experience with the Pleasanton and Palo Alto Weeklies. We had long discussions about what worked and what didn't, and our vision for the new Weekly. The result was the attractive, lively and versatile Danville Weekly. Inspired by this, the reporter and I brainstormed, networked and spent long hours tracking down news in our four towns (Danville, Alamo, Blackhawk and Diablo) to live up to our mission statement: "to be the most incisive, thoughtful and trusted source of news ... and to aggressively pursue stories ... and present

them in a compelling, lively and useful manner."

An often-heard reaction to our plans to start the newspaper was: "What are you going to write about? Nothing ever happens in Danville." But as an experienced community journalist, I knew that there was plenty going on. I'd been a reporter in Walnut Creek, Concord, Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Benicia, as well as in Pleasanton, and I knew how people love to read about their fellow residents, from when they find a 4-foot rattler in their garden to when they host wild parties in the hills. Residents are also interested in what happens at council and planning meetings so they'll know about new buildings and housing projects while they are still in the planning stages, not after they're being built. The more we got to know Danville, the more fascinating and complex we found it. And Alamo! What a treasure trove of personalities, events, traffic problems and intrigue. We were proud to cover the incorporation attempt. If we didn't cover issues or happenings more thoroughly, it was only due to time and staff constraints.

Good newspapers are produced by creative staff members who feed off each other's energy and knowledge; I've been fortunate to have this with our writers, designers and ad staff in our Danville office. Each of the four young reporters who worked for the Danville Weekly over the years brought his and her own background and skills to the job. When Geoff Gillette, an involved Danville dad with solid experience in news reporting, joined the staff 14 months ago, our news coverage became even more comprehensive. The print edition has been incredibly time-consuming to produce, so its demise will free me up to gather and write for the

online edition. News also will be covered by freelancers, hopefully to include Geoff, as well as Bay City News Service and our other publications. And I hope that everyone continues to send us their news and photos so we can share that information.

My greatest sadness at the demise of the print edition is disappointing our fans, who have told me that they live in the perfect town with the perfect newspaper. OK, maybe that's not my greatest sadness because I'm really more selfish than that. I will miss producing the Danville Weekly and being able to put stories and photos into print for a public that was supportive and generous with its feedback. I will miss the pride I took in each and every issue when it was delivered to our Danville office, as I apprehensively turned the pages fearing a glaring error while admiring the interplay of stories, photos and opinions. On the other hand, many people have told me that they already only read us online. This is encouraging because it is where my energy will now go.

Life is all about phases. Next, since I'm too young to retire and become a crotchety old lady who bores people by talking about the good old days of "real" newspapers, I'm looking forward to producing the Danville Express and the San Ramon Express. Another challenge! I'm determined to convert our faithful readers to our Web editions and to let them see that we are still their best hometown news source. See you at DanvilleExpress.com — sign up for delivery to your e-mail inboxes to begin five days a week on Monday, Oct. 5. Yikes! There's no time to be sad.

Dolores Fox Ciardelli can be e-mailed at [editor@Danville-Weekly.com](mailto:editor@Danville-Weekly.com).

## RUPF

Continued from Page 7

highest level of the organization," he stated.

Appointed in 1992, Rupf was re-elected in 1994 and has been in office ever since. His decision to step down will mean that an election will be held in June 2010. The candidate elected to the sheriff's post will take office in January 2011.

Rupf said he had been considering retiring for some time, but setting down and actually making the announcement was hard for the career lawman.

"The decision was much more difficult than I had ever imagined," he offered. "But it is time; 45 is not only a good caliber, but it's a good number in describing years of a career." ■



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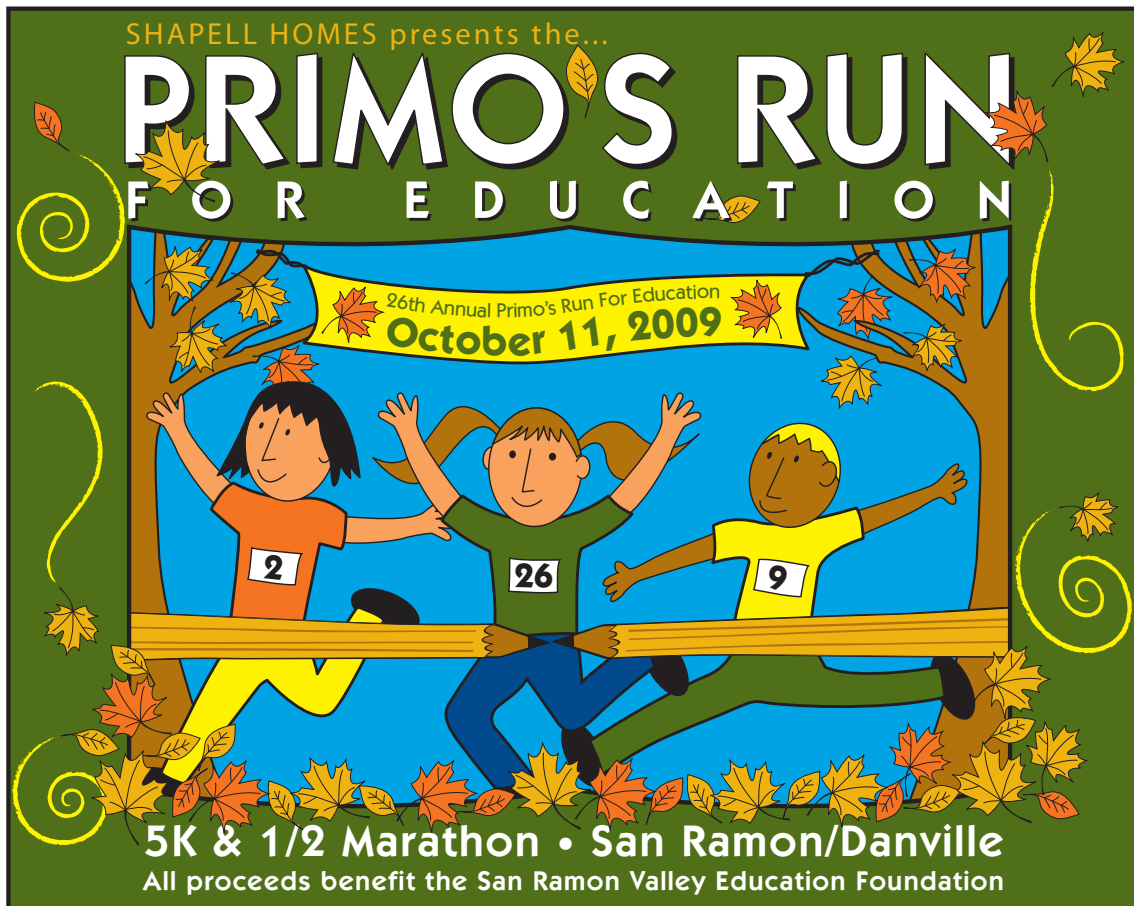
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## Danville Weekly

Serving the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo and Danville

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**The following excerpts are from Town Square at DanvilleWeekly.com in response to Alamo resident Rich Conti finding a rattlesnake in his back yard.**

Why not call animal control and have the snake released up on Diablo? They are part of the ecosystem and help keep the rodent population under control. Shame they decided to kill it. We get all kinds of snakes including rattlers around our development. We always let them make their way to the open space.

**Posted by Mike**

I am outraged! How hard and strong would you fight if you had your neck was in a noose? Think again!! This magnificent serpent didn't attack you or even your barking dog. Building your home in serpent territory comes with responsibilities. Rattlesnakes don't stalk people. Be aware—take care—and let be those that were meant to be free.

**Posted by Neighbor**

My home backs up to the open space and I am not surprised to hear this story at all. One week ago there was a young, two-foot-long rattler at the base of our front stairs; it was immobile because the sun had gone down and getting cool out so, I sat and watched it while my wife called

vector control to retrieve it. Vector control showed up within the hour, he got out of his van, grabbed his pole and a plastic bag (red flag) and got the snake into the bag, with quite a fight to get it in there. I asked what was going to be done with the snake and his response was "euthanize it." He continued by saying that Mount Diablo has more than its share of rattlers and that is why we are starting to see more of them. Your quick action could quite possibly have saved someone from a snake bite.

**Posted by Michael**

Sorry people—in our neighborhood we have lots of small children and pets—the snakes need to be eradicated, not given a free ride to another area.

**Posted by Debby**

Mr.Conti did the right thing under the circumstances. I have called the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in the past for "wild Life" help, but their response time is not quick enough to be useful under these circumstances. Finally, I think that Danville has a "huge" cougar problem that needs to be addressed. I suggest closing all bars after at 8 p.m. on weekends. That may also have an indirect affect on the snake problem.

**Posted by A Live Coward**

Are you guys kidding me? While I

completely agree it is unnecessary to kill things for no reason, Rich had more than enough cause. There is a dangerous animal living in his backyard where his family resides every day. Do you think the snake would have thought twice about biting Rich if he was in the snake's territory? Absolutely not. Clearly rattlesnakes are doing just fine in the East Bay. Rich acted just as I hope everyone would have acted in his situation...thinking about the safety of his family, neighbors, and friends above all else.

**Posted by Common Sense**

OK. I will not kill anymore snakes as I have done in the past. All those who want the snakes, please post your address and next time I will throw them over your fence into your yard for safe keeping.

**Posted by Ron**

Thank you, Rich, for protecting our neighborhoods! I have a feeling there is going to be a run on

snake grabbers on ebay!

**Posted by Grateful neighbor**

I live off El Cerro and found a very large rattlesnake in my yard a few years ago. The police said "call Animal Control" but Animal Control never showed up. My neighbor finally killed the snake.

**Posted by Susie**

Move over, Sully. Conti for Town Council!

**Posted by Citizen Paine**

You're all a bunch of wimps. Walk around the serpent and let it live. And by the way, when's the last time anyone actually has been bitten by a rattler in this area? If it happened, it would be front and center on this Web site.

**Posted by who me?**

Actually, two humans and three dogs were bitten by rattlesnakes in our neighborhood in the past 10 years. We kill rattlesnakes and leave gopher snakes to do their thing.

**Posted by Susan**




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Here is what our readers should know about the new DanvilleExpress.com:

■ It will continue the features of our current DanvilleWeekly.com that so many readers have already discovered.

■ News will be reported five days a week and updated as it happens.

■ We will have the ability to cover breaking news.

■ We will still welcome information and photos that you send in or call in.

■ We will have blogs from the editor (Diablo Views); as well as our Art Space on the art scene; Epicure with all the latest food fads and recipes; and the Teen Wire.

■ We have more than 80 "Take Us Along" photos that did not run, so we will post those online, one by one, in a prominent position.

■ We will also run sports team photos that we have received in the past few weeks, as well as the high school sports schedules. And our IT department is working on a format that allows parents to post these pictures themselves along with scores and comments on the game.

■ Our Town Square Forum is popular. As one person commented, it is so easy to read a story online and comment on it then and there. Check it out on the left side of the homepage.

■ Forget Fandango — check out DanvilleExpress.com for local movie times and movie reviews.

com for local movie times and movie reviews.

■ Want to publicize your event? Our handy Community Calendar section will still be online, to add your own happenings and to learn about those of other groups.

■ Current temperatures are on display, with a click for the weather forecast.

■ You can search our website or the entire World Wide Web from our homepage.

■ The archives from the print editions of the Danville Weekly will remain online to research old stories or to print old layouts.

■ This is what we'll start with but we will not limit ourselves. Who knows what the future will bring?

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**A rising star:** Danville resident Alissa Anderegg, 15, lends her talent to "Sing for Your Supper," a cabaret concert event benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, at 2:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11, at Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$25. Call 943-7469.

## Events

**AAUW OKTOBERFEST** Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW will celebrate 40 years of community service with an Oktoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Call 838-8632.

**ALAMO WOMEN'S CLUB-GARAGE SALE** Those in the community can rent a space for the day at a neighborhood garage sale to benefit Alamo Women's Club charities, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. E-mail Anita at ninexgramma@yahoo.com for information.

**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](http://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 its 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](http://www.catholicsatwork.org).

**CEMETERY TOURS** Trained docents reveal stories of pioneer families during a special walk-through of the Alamo Cemetery at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at 130 El Portal, Danville. For reservations, call Patty Dobbins at 838-0127. A donation is requested.

**GIGANTIC FALL BOOK SALE** The Friends of the Danville Library are holding their Gigantic Fall Book Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (9-10 a.m. for members only), Friday, Oct. 16;

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17; 12-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18 (bag sale day) at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Huge selection of books. All proceeds benefit the Danville Library.

**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](http://www.discoverdanvilleca.com).

**SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE PUBLIC TALK - GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS** Saint Mary's College Center for Fiduciary Capitalism is sponsoring a Public Talk: Global Solutions for a Global Problem? Has the world really learned the lessons from the banking crisis? 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. RSVP at [www.tinyurl.com/fidcap](http://www.tinyurl.com/fidcap).

**ST. ISIDORE FARMERS' FAIR** Come to the St. Isidore Farmers' Fair, 10

a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Share our faith, family and community as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. Please bring a can food donation. Homemade jams, pickles and pasta sauce for purchase, games, pumpkin patch and face paintings for all.

**SUMMIT FINANCIAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** Come to Summit Financial's 7th annual Charity Golf Tournament, Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit Troy and Alana Pack Foundation, 11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 12, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Golfers, sponsors and diners welcome. Putting Contest, Marshmallow Drive and Hole in One contest for a new car. Cost is \$175 for golfers; \$50 for dinner only. Visit [www.summitfingroup.com](http://www.summitfingroup.com) or call 866-7800.

**TWIN'S CLUB CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SALE** Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club is hosting its semi-annual Children's Clothing and Equipment Sale sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Entrance fee is \$1 per person, parking is free. Visit [www.TVMOTC.org/cesale](http://www.TVMOTC.org/cesale).

## Exhibits

**'THROUGH INDIAN EYES' AT THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY** 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.

## Film

**MUSIC AND DANCE DOCUMENTARIES** Bring a lunch or snack to munch on while watching 'Buena Vista Social Club', 'Mad Hot Ballroom', and 'Been Rich All my Life', in four class sessions, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., starting Tuesday, Oct. 6, Emeritus College, 1250 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek. Fee: \$6 per session or \$20 for all four. Visit [www.dvc.edu/emmeritus](http://www.dvc.edu/emmeritus) or call 906-9105.

## Fundraisers

**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, 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 4 at Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. Visit [www.curetype1.org](http://www.curetype1.org).

**STAND! 17TH ANNUAL REBUILDING LIVES LUNCHEON** Join us for an inspirational and uplifting celebration of survivors, advocates and the life-saving work of STAND! Against domestic violence. The keynote address will be given by Robin Givens. From Noon- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Concord Hilton. Cost is \$100. Call 603-0138.



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## Kids and Teens

**CHILDREN'S FALL FEST** Town of Danville will host Children's Fall Fest from 3:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Festivities include arts and crafts, face painting, games, trick-or-treating and lots of fall fun. Pre-registration is required; call 314-3400.

**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.

## Lectures/ 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.

## Sports

**SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING AT DOUGHERTY VALLEY HIGH** The Walnut Creek Aquanauts are kicking off their Tri-Valley recreational synchronized swimming program with a free demonstration, 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3 at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. This kicks-off a five week recreation program that the Aquanauts are offering at Dougherty Valley High School. Swimmers, ages 6-11, will learn the fundamentals of synchronized swimming including basic sculling, figures, routine development, and choreography. Visit [www.aquanauts.org](http://www.aquanauts.org).

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# Community Pulse • Transitions

## POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

### Monday, Sept. 21

- Investigation, arrest, on 100 block of Baldwin Dr. at 8:26 a.m.
- Vandalism on 2100 block of Holbrook Dr. at 10:10 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on 500 block of La Gonda Way at 11:36 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with fire and ambulance en route at Camino Tassajara and Hansen Lane at 3:56 p.m.
- Warrant, arrest, on 200 block of Borel Lane at 8:18 p.m.

### Tuesday, Sept. 22

- Auto burglary on 400 block of Glasgow Circle at 4:49 a.m.
- Vandalism on 2100 block of Holbrook Dr. at 7:29 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 100 block of Mackenzie Pl. at 9:54 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 600 block of

Glasgow Circle at 11:37 a.m.

- Auto burglary on 100 block of Redbud Ct. at 12:48 p.m.
- Petty theft on 800 block of Orange Blossom Way at 1:20 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 3:14 p.m.
- Strongarm robbery on 400 block of Sycamore Valley Rd. West at 4:10 p.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 800 block of Podva Rd. at 5:36 p.m.

### Wednesday, Sept. 23

- Missing adult on 100 block of Serene Ct. at 5:12 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 1600 block of Green Valley Rd. at 7:28 a.m.
- Petty theft on 1000 block of Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 12:00 p.m.
- Identity theft on 100 block of Camino Encanto at 2:46 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on 100 block of Cameo Dr. at 5:27 p.m.

■ Promiscuous shooting on 200 block of Remington Loop at 9:26 p.m.

### Thursday, Sept. 24

- Identity theft on 500 block of La Gonda Way at 2:07 p.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage, arrest, at Diablo Rd. and W. El Pintado Rd. at 3:01 p.m.
- Driving under the influence, misdemeanor, at I-680 southbound and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:04 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on 100 block of Diablo View Ct. at 3:38 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Front St. and Hartz Way at 7:14 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 25

- Petty theft, shoplifting, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 1:08 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 400 block of Verona Ave. at 7:08 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage at Lawrence Rd. and Marigold St. at 2:47 p.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 400 block of Front St. at 3:27 p.m.
- Arrest at El Pintado Rd. and La Gonda Way at 7:42 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 26

- Grand theft at W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 12:40 p.m.
- Assault with a deadly weapon on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 3:23 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, at Glasgow Circle and Glasgow Dr. at 4:16 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 300 block of Remington Loop at 9:35 p.m.

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Wrong address lands Danville woman in jail

Too much alcohol and a faulty sense of direction resulted in a 46-year-old Danville woman being arrested for public drunkenness.

Sgt. Kevin Daley said police were called to a home in the 500 block of El Pintado at 7:45 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25, on a report of suspicious circumstances.

The officer at the scene spoke with the homeowner, who said she was in her house watching television when she heard a noise in her kitchen. Investigating, she found two strange women in her home. When she confronted the women they left through an open sliding glass door. She told police that one of the women seemed very dazed and disoriented.

The witness said she watched the women leave in two SUV's. After informing the officer of the incident he located the vehicles parked further down El Pintado. He spoke to one of the drivers, who explained that they had been at Chow Restaurant with her friend who was intoxicated.

The report indicates the women ended up in the witness' home when they tried to drive their friend home. Their inebriated companion incorrectly directed them to the address, and they brought her inside through the back door.

According to the report, the officer asked the woman, identified as Maria Tubbs, if that was where she lived and she replied, "That doesn't look anything like my house."

The officer asked Tubbs' companions if they would be responsible for seeing her safely home and the women reportedly declined. So the officer was forced to take her into custody on a charge of being drunk in public. When he attempted to take her into custody she allegedly refused to cooperate, so an additional charge of resisting arrest was levied.

Daley said Tubbs was taken to the Martinez Detention Center and later released.

—Geoff Gillette

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## OBITUARIES

### Melville 'Mel' Everett Leathley

Melville "Mel" Everett Leathley died recently at the age of 75 after a battle against cancer, at his Danville home, with his family at his side.



He was born in Bashaw, Alberta, Canada, and moved to Kittitas, Wash., when he was a teenager. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed at Treasure Island. In November 1953, he met June Lopez at

a USO dance and they married Nov. 14, 1954. In 1959, he joined the San Francisco Police Department. He worked as a patrolman in stations throughout the city and, in 1969, he received the Outstanding Police Service Award. He retired as an inspector, an expert in child abuse cases. After retiring from the department, he worked as a general contractor.

He is survived by his wife June; son James, daughters Diane (Corwin), Elaine (Shively), JoAnn (Maxcy) and son John; sons-in-law Miles Corwin, Steve Shively, Bill Maxcy; daughters-in-law Nina Leathley and Teri Leathley; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at noon, Saturday, Oct. 3, at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, 825 Hartz Way, Danville. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Salvation Army.

### Edward Hilton Noble

Edward Hilton Noble, a resident of Danville and former resident of San Francisco, Richmond and Calistoga, died Sept. 14 at the age of 86 at Hospice's Bruns House in Alamo after recent Alzheimer's declines and hospitalizations.

He was born March 18, 1923, and is survived by sister Marguerite Teaff; former sister-in-law Doris Noble; former daughter-in-law Laura Muggli; two grandsons, five great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

As per his wish, no services will be held, but donations can be made to the Ed Noble Memorial Scholarship (established in his son's memory at San Ramon's California High School) or to Hospice of the East Bay.

## ENGAGEMENTS

### Suzanne Cohen and Carlos Navarro

Steve and Debbie Cohen of Laguna Nigel have announced the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Michelle Cohen, to Carlos Alejandro Navarro, son of Victor and Esmeralda Escovedo-

Flores of Livermore.

Carlos is a 2000 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School in Danville. He is currently employed as a project manager for Il'Calore of Newport Beach and resides in Dana Point.

The wedding is scheduled for June 12 at the Dana Hotel on Mission Bay in San Diego. The couple will honeymoon in Playa Mujeres, Mexico, and reside in Orange County.



## Fun run

Event raises school spirit, family fun and money for education

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Get ready, get set — go run for education. Primo's Run is ready to take off for the 26th year to raise funds for the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 11. The event draws families having fun; serious runners; and all those in between.

The 5K event has two categories: timed runners who begin at 8:15 a.m.; and the fun runners/walkers, who line up behind the timed runners and take off at 8:30 a.m.

Then there's the half marathon, which begins at Primo's Pizza on Hartz Avenue and Diablo Road in Danville and finishes at Iron Horse Middle School where the festivities take place.

"The half marathon draws very serious runners," said foundation board member Nicole Holthuis. "It's a registered race (with U.S. Track and Field). We paid money to have it registered, so it can qualify people for bigger marathons."

The half-marathon begins at 7:15 a.m. at Primo's Pizza, 298 Hartz Ave. in Danville. Late registration begins at 6 a.m. Entry fees range from \$20 to \$65, depending on which race is entered and when

participants register.

Although Holthuis will be working the event, her husband and three children will either walk or run.

"He's talking about getting them to run it this year," she noted.

That's the family fun of it.

An online auction for items that included a Carnival Cruise ended Sept. 30. Spirit Week, which just concluded, saw fans take over Primo's Pizza and enjoy music from different schools each night, with 50 percent of the total revenue going to the cause.

Look out for centipedes, too. That is, teams of walkers who join together to form a multi-legged critter in costume with a clever name. Creativity counts, say the rules. Judging for centipedes will take place at 10 a.m. the day of the race. Also on race day, a prize is given to the school that raises the most funds.

San Ramon Rotary hosts a carboload the night before the race to increase people's calorie intake before their big effort. But its main purpose is to raise more money for education.

"Every year we give \$50,000 to the schools," said Rotarian Sam Parwiz. "Over the history of this event, it has raised over \$1 million."

Primo's Run is the largest fund-

raiser of the year for the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, which distributes teacher and district grants to enhance instruction at schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. It's a chance for everyone to support education — and have a lot of fun while doing so. ■

### Pasta load for the run

**What:** CarboLoad before Primo's Run

**When:** 5:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10

**Where:** Toyota Distribution Center, 2451 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

**What:** All-you-can-eat pasta feed, no-host bar, desserts, special kids meals

**Special:** silent auction and drawing; magicians, clowns, bounce house and more

**Cost:** \$15 adults; children 10 and under free

**Tickets:** [www.sanramonrotary.org](http://www.sanramonrotary.org); call 200-5380; may be purchased at the door



BRIGHTROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Ellie Inamine, 7, happily takes part in the 2007 Primo's Run, which draws all ages of runners and walkers to raise money for education.

## PRESENTING THE PAST

By BEVERLY LANE

### Planning the Valley

On Feb. 14, 1973, a letter went to Contra Costa County asking it to appoint a Municipal Advisory Council and Regional Planning Commission for the San Ramon Valley. Valley-wide incorporation elections had been unsuccessful in 1964, 1967 and 1973. The letter came from the five people who would have formed the Valley's city council in 1973: Roy Bloss, Claudia Nemir, Brian Thiessen, Richard Kennett and Eric Hasseltine. It began, "Failure of the recent cityhood election in San Ramon Valley has not dulled the sense of community interest throughout the area."

County Director of Planning Anthony A. Dehaesus provided a staff report on Area Planning Commissions (APC) on March 20, 1973. He pointed out that County Supervisors were able to create such commissions by virtue of a state law enacted in 1971. Negatives were increased costs and region-wide issues that such a group would not

address. An advantage was increased citizen involvement.

Orinda, Kensington and San Ramon Valley had expressed an interest in APCs and, while Dehaesus recommended against Municipal Advisory Councils, he did believe APCs could be feasible. No councils or commissions were appointed by the County Supervisors at that time. In November 1976, San Ramon Valley again voted on incorporation and again rejected it.

By this time Eric Hasseltine had been elected to represent the Valley as its County Supervisor and he advocated for APCs with his peers who argued about "Balkanizing" planning, increased costs, and a possible local vote to approve such panels. Then Supervisor Bob Schroder of Walnut Creek asked the county counsel to draft an ordinance creating APCs. In June of 1977, the Supervisors approved seven-member area planning commissions in Orinda and the San Ramon Valley. The Valley commission's primary responsibilities would be to review subdivision plans, rezoning

requests and land use permits for a 112-square-mile area coterminous with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. It would replace the County Planning Commission in that territory.

There was already a San Ramon Valley Planning Committee appointed by the Valley Chamber of Commerce that reviewed major and minor projects and made recommendations to the County Planning Commission. Another voice that commented on proposed developments was the Valley Action Forum, a coalition of homeowners associations and other concerned groups. Hasseltine himself had been on the SRV Planning Committee for two years.

Hasseltine set up a review board and asked it to recommend appointees for the new commission. He called for candidates with the "initiative, time, motivation and, hopefully, the experience." Andrew Young, an Alamo resident on the County Planning Commission, would serve on the new SRV panel, so six more members would be appointed; 51 people applied.

The review board was composed of three local businessmen, Jim Graham, Charles Lowell and Jack Marzluft. They presented six names to Hasseltine on Sept. 6, 1977: John Meakin (San Ramon), Linda



CYNTHIA WOOD, FROM "VINTAGE DANVILLE, 150 YEARS OF MEMORIES," BY BEVERLY LANE AND LAURA GRINSTEAD

Sycamore Valley looking toward Mount Diablo with the Wood Ranch headquarters in the foreground, 1978.

Best (Alamo), Dick Kennett (San Ramon), Juanita Burow (Danville), John Olander (Diablo) and Nelson Wright (Danville). Upon his recommendation, the Board of Supervisors appointed them.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1977, the SRV Area Planning Commission was in business. Usually meeting in the board room at the School District's Education Center, it dealt with small and large planning projects, and meetings sometimes lasting into the wee hours of the night. Linda Best recalled that meeting

until 1 a.m. was not unusual and that an especially memorable one ended at 4 a.m.

Coverage of the commission meetings in the Valley Pioneer was extensive. Planning densities, developer fees for schools and parks, a possible ridgeline ordinance, traffic improvements and fire district requests for fewer cul de sacs were just a few considerations. At a November 1977 meeting, Eve Auch of the Alamo Improvement Association stated

See PAST on Page 19

# ART SPACE



By JOHN A. BARRY

## The hero in us all

Danville artist Bill Carmel wants to bring out the hero in everyone. To that end, he has proposed that the Town install an 8-foot figurative sculpture, entitled "The Hero," on the portico of the Kevin Milligan gallery at 408 Hartz Ave. Carmel describes the proposed sculpture as a "metaphor that is meant to inspire and make visible the greatness and virtues inherent in all



Artist Bill Carmel is proposing that an 8-foot version of "The Hero" be installed on the portico of a Hartz Avenue store.

of us as well as portray the idea of the heroic." Although he has yet to complete the large version, Carmel has fabricated three maquettes (small models), each slightly different, which are on display at the Milligan Gallery. The one proposed for the portico is a genderless figure, with arms outstretched. "It has no distinguishing features other than wings," also outstretched and ready for flight, says Carmel. "It is not human but has human characteristics."

He characterizes the proposed piece as "public art ... visible to all who pass." But so far, The Hero is a no-go with the Town. Patricia Dillon, a partner in the Milligan Gallery, initially proposed the project to a Town official, who "chose to

acknowledge it as 'signage.'"

### A Different Approach

In retrospect, Carmel says, he should have first approached the Arts Commission with the proposal. "They would then be in a position to tell the Town Council, 'This is a work of art,' and then the Council could either approve it or not."

In spite of the early setback, however, Carmel still thinks that his chances for success are good. "For the Town, this would be an opportunity to buy into a way to bring art into the community." He also thinks it would help establish a process for "incorporating this kind of creative endeavor into everyday town life."

Furthermore, he believes, "The Town gets to have all of these creative cultural things that are going on, no matter what the time of day is." As an example, he explains that the museum or a gallery wouldn't have to be open; "you can just have events that happen in the town."

Carmel says that local merchants have been attempting for a long time to establish Danville as a destination, and he believes that continual events he describes would help in that endeavor. "Cultural, merchant and government activities will work with each other. Then you get something that is aesthetically pleasing; people will want to come to do things here." He points to initiatives of this type in Walnut Creek, Pleasanton, Livermore and Brentwood.

"It would only add to what Danville already has going."

**Going ...** The print version of the Danville Weekly is going online and with it, this column. I've enjoyed doing it and meeting the people about whom I've written in these paper pages.

John A. Barry is a writer and aspiring artist. To share anything art-related, call him at 314-9528 or e-mail [johnbarry@pacbell.net](mailto:johnbarry@pacbell.net).

# THE TEEN WIRE



By DANIEL MORIZONO

## The irony of it all

We learned last year in English class about the power of irony. This is a theme that appears sometimes overtly and sometimes quietly, in almost every literary work. More than any device in an author's toolbox, irony has the power to turn a story on its head. Just as you think you are heading in one direction, irony will flip you in another and upend your expectations. A wise reader then can never know for certain how the story will end.

The decline of print media, hastened by the tough economy, has made this the final issue of the Danville Weekly and the final print edition of the Teen Wire. Ironically, this is untimely for a column which last commented on the dismal job market for teens.

However this move comes as timely in light of current events. My generation is witnessing the shift from print media to online media. Only in our time have we seen the rise of bloggers, e-books and social networking, among other innovations. Our parents grew up in a time when the news was provided by several newspapers, radio and TV stations. While these media outlets are by no means extinct, few can deny that the face of news is changing and that this pace is accelerating each day.

Instead of trying to resist this shift though, we should embrace it. Inevitably there will be an uncomfortable and awkward stage at first. Even Gutenberg's printing press was initially met with fierce opposition. Some will be afraid and confused. But this transition is much like the stage of adolescence, which we can all relate to. Getting used to this change will not be an overnight thing, but it will happen. I'll see you on the other side.

A more immediate issue facing teens is succeeding in school and getting into college. As a senior I have recently begun the process of applying to college. This can be a stressful time, especially when you are trying to make the most of your last year of high school. My advice to anyone navigating the application process is to approach it one step at a time and not wait until the last minute to get it done. Of course the procrastination mechanism then kicks in to gear. But really, you stand a better change of presenting yourself to colleges effectively if you take your time.

After apps are completed comes the waiting game and finally decision time. After all the work you've put into your college resume it seems that you and your college application are the same. The two are inseparable. And this seems to make sense. Think of all the component parts that represent pieces of you: grades, test scores, extracurriculars, personal statements, teacher recommendations and interviews. It is easy to conclude from this that if we fail to get into some college, we fail ourselves.

Only a narrow-minded individual would think like this. Are you a nar-

See TEEN on Page 19

OktoberFest

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## THE EVERYDAY WINE GUY



By DON COLMAN

### A magical wine

#### 2005 Silverado Cabernet Sauvignon

The last printed issue of the Danville Weekly. It broke my heart when I got the news. This paper allowed me to open my thoughts of what an everyday wine should be, learn a little bit about vineyards, and share my wine drinking experiences with you.

Many of you have been kind enough to e-mail me about the articles — suggesting dif-

ferent wines to try and even inviting me into your lives for different wine-tasting events. This is exactly what I had thought the everyday wine guy would be. For this, I thank you.

After the news came out concerning the Danville Weekly, I had a number of readers ask me to continue writing, perhaps for a different paper or even online. To that end, I have created a blog where you can follow my ridiculous wine stories and share yours with me. I will update it as frequently as I drink — which should be fairly often. Take a peek at [www.nosetoglass.com](http://www.nosetoglass.com) to see what wine is keeping me busy each weekend.

I was trying to figure out which wine to highlight in my last column for the Danville Weekly when it hit me. My favorite wine of all time. Perhaps it is the story around the winery, perhaps it is the people at the winery who make me feel at home or perhaps it

is their wine, their unbelievable wine.

Silverado Vineyards is one of the most picturesque wineries I have ever seen, with views overlooking the entire Napa valley. It is owned by Ron and Diane Miller. Ron played professional football (my favorite sport) and Diane is Walt Disney's only daughter (and his land is my favorite place in the world). They purchased the vineyard in the 1970s and sold grapes to other vintners for the next decade. In 1981, they decided to stop selling their grapes and start producing their own wine.

Rest assured, when you buy any wine from Silverado, you are getting a top quality wine that could be priced well higher than at what it is. My favorite is the 2005 Silverado Cabernet Sauvignon, available everywhere for approximately \$46. It has a deep color and beautiful nose. Lots of plum fruit with wood

and herbs wafting out of the glass. Its taste is exceptional, with just enough sweetness to offset the acidic feel and plenty of chewy tannins. The best part about this wine is the complexity. The longer it breathes, the more robust the flavors and sensory the wine becomes. A perfect wine to pair with fuller meats and heavier pastas.

At \$46, this is above the everyday wine price for many readers. I warn you though, after tasting the wine you will find yourself making excuses to open it for any occasion, special or everyday. That, to me, is the sign of a truly spectacular wine.

I have loved sharing my stories with you and look forward to continuing that when the time is right. Until then, take a peak at [www.nosetoglass.com](http://www.nosetoglass.com) or keep in touch through [don@nosetoglass.com](mailto:don@nosetoglass.com). Until next time, Cheers!

## TEEN

Continued from Page 18

row-minded individual? I would certainly hope not. Let me put it clearly: You are NOT your college application. You are the only one who can represent yourself. Colleges try as best they can to admit people and not numbers. They have gotten better at it over the years, but they can always fail.

In sports some athletes are referred to as having "intangible" qualities like leadership and hustle. Some are born with these qualities, others come to develop them. These qualities are intangible because they transcend any label or statistic we give them. Cultivate those intangibles that you have a passion for. Carve a niche in the world doing what you love. Have no idea what this is? Well, that's what life is for,

isn't it? If you follow your own calling, that will get you further than any college will. I promise.

To be a part of this newspaper has been a great privilege, and is an opportunity I will never forget. Writing every column has been worthwhile. Like the challenges met in growing up, whether it be the loss of a friend or an ill turn in health, irony may make you feel a victim of forces beyond your control. But know that you need not be the passive victim of "circumstances." Always aspire to be what you most want and value. Have the courage to live to the extents of the imagination. You just might be your own author someday.

*The Teen Wire provides a perspective on today's youth, in the face of a changing world. It will continue at [DanvilleExpress.com](http://DanvilleExpress.com).*

## PAST

Continued from Page 17

that the APC was created to preserve their quality of life and "we ask that you protect us." Also at that meeting planner Harvey Bragdon said the commission had 200 items in the hopper and some of them were big ones. One new commissioner was quoted as saying on Nov. 30, "Good lord!"

The commission discussed proposed large developments at the Creeks of Alamo north of Stone Valley, Twin Creeks in San Ramon, Sycamore Valley in Danville and Canyon Lakes in San Ramon. In the early 1990s, Dougherty Valley development was the topic, with 11,000-13,000 homes finally approved. Aware of the significance of this project region-wide, the Supervisors set up joint hearings on Dougherty Valley by both the SRV Area and County Planning Commissions.

Only the County Planning Commission made final recommendations to the Board.

Several of the commissioners went on to serve on local city councils, including Susanna Schlendorf, Dick Kennett, John Meakin, Barry Nudelman and Pat Boom.

Thirty-two years later, the Supervisors ended the commission. Danville and San Ramon had incorporated in the early 1980s, and Alamo was to have a Municipal Advisory Council. An urban limit line now restricted development in much of the rest of the Valley. Private citizen Eric Hasseltine was again present at the Board of Supervisor's meeting, and this time he said, "It's time to let the area planning commissions sunset."

Sources: *Tri-Valley News, June and July, 1977; Valley Pioneer, June to December, 1977; Danville Weekly Aug. 14, 2009; museum archives*



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## Parent photographers

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



## Jumping for the bronze

Allegra Aiuto, 15, captures the bronze at the North American Junior Young Rider championships in Lexington, Ky. She attended Monte Vista High School in her freshman and sophomore years and now boards at a school back east that has an equestrian program.



## Barcelona in Sonoma

The FC Barcelona made it to the championship game of the U10 Boys Red Division at the Sonoma Harvest Cup Tournament held at Sonoma State, for a spirited and competitive finals match. Team members are (front row, l-r) Jack Slimm, Ryan Bayliss, Ross Ambrose, Nick Zabaneh, Kyle Wong, Will Barton, Sam Mink, (second row) Jordan Guterres, Ethan Spain, Jackson Pierce, (coaches) Brad Wong, Eric Colard and Darren Guterres.



## Xtreme undefeated in Napa

The Mustang Xtreme U12 girls were undefeated to win the Napa Valley Wine Country Classic Soccer Tournament. Xtreme played four games and outscored their opponents 14 goals to 0. During the championship game, they beat the Petaluma Crush 1-0. Players are (back row, l-r) Coach Don Fornasier, Micheala Paradiso, Sara Walker, Carina Pineda, Melyssa Moore, Makenna Smith, Rebecca Silverman, Coach Pete McCabe, (front) Megan McCabe, Kaitlin Ross, Ellie Hensley, Kathryn LaBarbera, Katie Patterson, Elise Ericson, Erin Nash, Joelle Fornasier and Samantha Wanket. Not pictured: Julia Espino.



## Rossoneri Boys take Adidas Cup

The U13 Mustang Rossoneri Boys won the USA Adidas Cup on Aug. 15 in Salt Lake City. During the championship game, Mustang Rossoneri beat the Blue Knights 6-0. Team members are (back row, l-r) Ben Elisha, Jack Ramon, Austin Tobian, Ryan Miller, Connor Reiland, Adam Swete, Zack Pereira, Joe Oswald, Nick Friedler, AJ Thiermann, Kyle Henry, (front) Chase Redd, Jake Don Sing, Coach Johnny Kinnear, Spencer Terzolo, Coach Hugh Kinnear, Nathan Miller, Trip McComas.



DAVID WILLIAMS

## Season opener

Will "Vogue" Vogeley of the Mustang U12 Galaxy drives the ball up field as the defender looks on, while facing the Livermore Strikers in the season opener Sept. 12. Galaxy won, 4-1.

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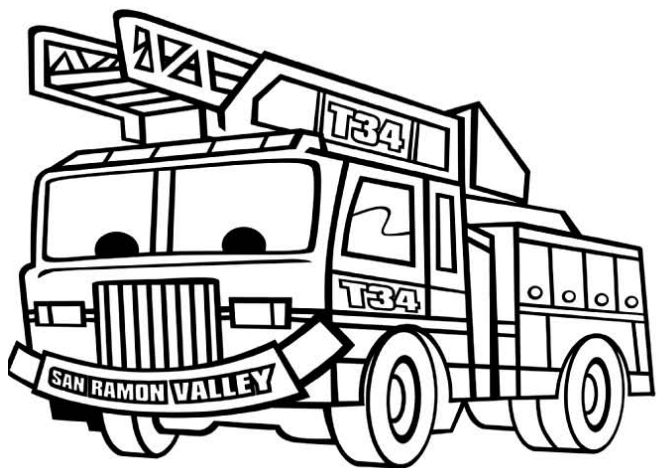
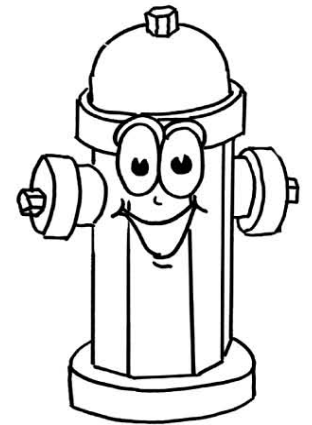
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October is Fire Prevention Month and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and the Danville Weekly want kids to be Fire Smart! Show us what it means to you to be Fire Smart by drawing a picture in the space provided.

Once you have completed your drawing make sure you fill out the contact information box below, cut it out and tape it to the back of your coloring sheet. Return your completed coloring sheet to your School's

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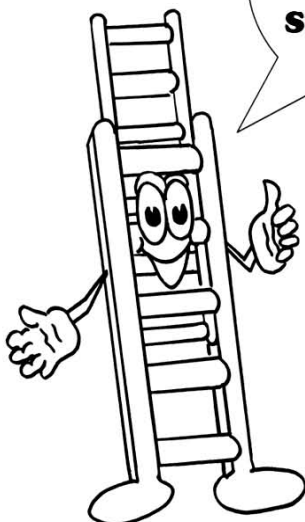
One winner will be selected from each grade level (K-5th). Winners will be notified by October 30th. For more information call (925) 838-6600 or visit [www.firedepartment.org](http://www.firedepartment.org).

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\* San Ramon Valley Fire reserves the right to use all submitted coloring sheets in printed materials and on the District website without written consent or compensation.



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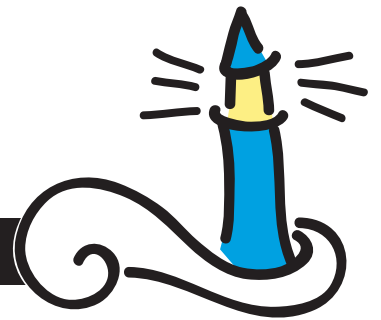


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Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: <http://www.RealRentals.com> (AAN CAN)  
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4578B Augustine St. 780 sq ft house. Refrig and stove. Laundry available. Off street parking for 1 car. Garbage and lawn service pd. 1050 rent, 1050 sec dep. Credit check and verification of employment required. Drive by, look inside. Call 925 462 6877 to go inside. 10 minutes away.

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2150

## 809 Shared Housing/Rooms

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

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**Mountain View Condo Auction, 3 BR/2BA**  
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**PET OF THE WEEK**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**Playful Pierre**

When I opened his kennel door to take his picture Pierre nearly stood on his head to get my attention. I said, "Pierre, sit still." Pierre rubbed his face on my camera lens. I said, "Pierre, sit still and show the people your beautiful black and white tuxedo coloring." Pierre has four white paws, a white bib and a white belly. Pierre rubbed against my hand and tried to play with me. I said, "Pierre, I know you are a friendly cat but I need a nice photo of you so people will see how beautiful you are." Pierre finally sat down and agreed to have his picture taken. Visit Pierre (pet # 88762) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. This feature will be continued at DanvilleWeekly.com.

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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Blog  
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**TAKE US ALONG**



**Got milk?** The Danville Weekly travels to Wisconsin with Connie, Ryan and Erin Cady. They visited two Jersey calves at Mulberry Lane Farm in Sherwood which their relatives settled in the late 1880s; it is now a hands-on learning environment to educate people about farm animals.

**Send in a photo that didn't run? Those still awaiting their turn will be run at DanvilleExpress.com.**

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## Our Doctors

### FAMILY MEDICINE

Renu Deshpande, M.D.  
Sean Feezell, D.O.  
Bradford Flagg, M.D.  
Erik Gracer, M.D.  
Richard Gracer, M.D.  
Jonathan Humphrey, M.D.  
Béla S. Kenessey, M.D.  
Robert Litman, M.D.  
Lindsay McCarrick, M.D.  
Viktor Novikov, M.D.  
Jeffrey Riopelle, M.D.  
John Roberts, M.D.  
Michael Schierman, M.D.  
Douglas Severance, M.D.  
Anupama Velpuri, M.D.  
Juliana Wong, M.D.  
Tsong Peter Wong, M.D.

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Michael Abdel-Malek, M.D.  
Kim Benson, M.D.  
Kushal Chhabra, M.D.  
Lee Brett Eisan, M.D.  
Umesh Gheewala, M.D.  
Kevin Hart, M.D.  
Denise Hilliard, M.D.  
Frank Hsueh, M.D.  
Andal Kadambi, M.D.  
Nader Kaldas, M.D.  
Damayanthi Kalisetti, M.D.  
Sue Johnson Knight, M.D.  
Donna Kwong, M.D.  
F. Calvin Lemon, M.D.  
Fernandina Lo, M.D.  
Jatinder Marwaha, M.D.  
Zainab Mezban, M.D.  
Smrutirekha Misra, M.D.

Sunita Mistry, M.D.  
Neil Okamura, D.O.  
Tobias Paiva, D.O.  
Donald Parsons, M.D.  
Stephen Pratt, M.D.  
Jon Rasak, M.D.  
Bakul Roy, M.D.  
Rahel Ruiz, M.D.  
Jyothi Sarma, M.D.  
Michael Temkin, D.O.  
Pamela Wang, M.D.  
Paul Wheeler, M.D.

### CRITICAL CARE/ PULMONARY MEDICINE

Anitha Angan, M.D.  
Michael Kazemi, M.D.  
Narendra Malani, M.D.

### GYNECOLOGY/ OBSTETRICS

Patrick Dawkins, M.D.  
Karin DeNevi, M.D.  
Tanees J. Edraki, M.D.  
Emil Eyvazzadeh, M.D.  
Renée Hilliard, M.D.  
Louis Klein, M.D.  
Mark Lollar, M.D.  
Michele Riopelle, M.D.  
Forrest Smith, M.D.  
Joanne Vogel, M.D.

### PEDIATRICS

Richard Ash, M.D.  
Michael Cheng, M.D.  
Lisa Erburu, M.D.  
Carol Gill, M.D.  
Cynthia Hann, M.D.

Colleen Hogan, M.D.  
Anna Kerr, M.D.  
Thomas Long, M.D.  
Allen Obrinsky, M.D.  
Sam Pejham, M.D.  
Sharlene Pereira, M.D.  
Cynthia Quan, M.D.  
Asha Ramchandran, M.D.  
Michael Ruiz, M.D.  
Suresh Sachdeva, M.D.  
Neena Shah, M.D.  
Marianne Tosick, M.D.  
Tracy Trotter, M.D.  
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