

## It's back to school come Monday

Dougherty Valley High School opens its doors > **page 5**

Vol. III, Number 17 • August 24, 2007

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### Info Danville

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# Danville

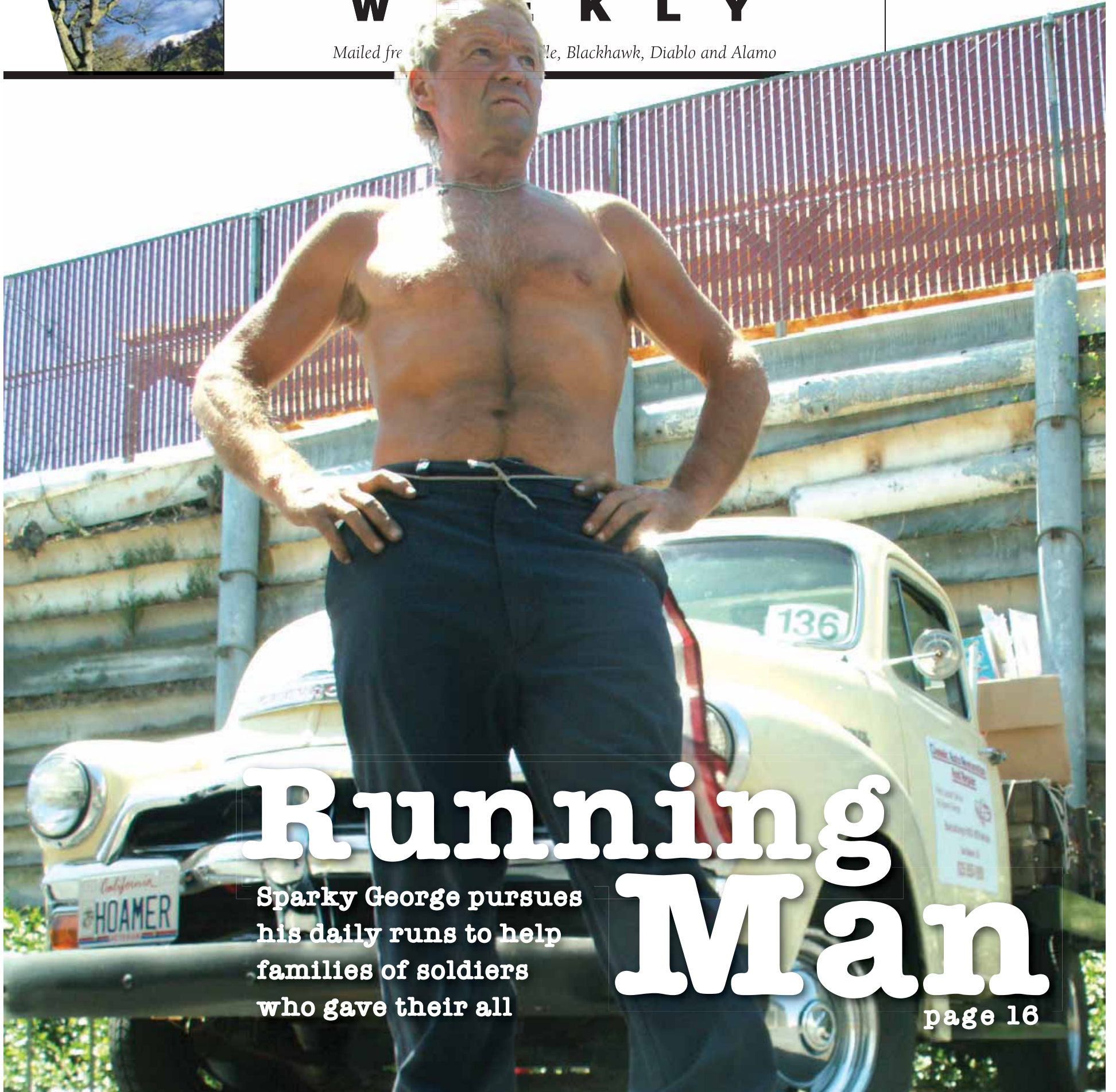
W E E K L Y

Mailed from Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

### Not getting your ZZZs?

Careful: You might have sleep apnea

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# Running Man

Sparky George pursues his daily runs to help families of soldiers who gave their all

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# Streetwise

ASKED IN DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

## Q: What was the highlight of your summer?



I went to New York City to celebrate my grandparents' 50th anniversary. They renewed their vows. We went to a Yankee game. Alex Rodriguez hit his 500th homerun. He was given a mural of himself. It was exciting. Yankee Stadium is dirty. It's hot. The fans are crazy. They are diehard Yankee fans.

**Kiera Yetman**  
employee at Yogurt Shack and San Ramon Valley High School senior



We got to go the pool and got to do swimming lessons. I got to learn how to swim. (Grace) I like torpedoing and going under water. (Giordan)

**Grace Gitchell 6, and her sister, Giordan Gitchell, 3**  
students



The Harry Potter night downtown. It was nice. It had a great theme. The kids loved the mad scientists' potions. They made slime. It was a great event for adults and kids being together, which is why we moved here.

**Garrett Gitchell**  
consultant



Santa Cruz. My favorite ride was on the gondola and you're above the ocean. It was really fun when you're going on the ride. And I saw a caveman.

**Makena Shilich**  
student



Going to Zelda's on the Beach in Capitola near Santa Cruz. That's been the highlight, man. You're close to the water. You could throw a rock in the ocean. It's just awesome.

**David Shilich**  
outside sales

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

### ABOUT THE COVER

Danville resident "Sparky" George Cave stands proud outside his auto shop and says he is holding his Hats Off America run next month to raise money for families of soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Photo by Jordan M. Doronila. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. III, Number 17

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The Danville Weekly sincerely apologizes for the error in name and address on the Danville Paint & Decorating Ad in the August 24, 2007 "Info Danville Book" issue. Below is the corrected name and address.



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### NEWS DIGEST

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“What secret agenda? What do I have to gain?”

—Chris Kenber, Alamo incorporation committee spokesman, about accusations that he has an agenda for wanting Alamo to incorporate. See story, page 5.

#### Gale Ranch Safeway opens today

The new Dougherty Valley Safeway store opens today, Aug. 24, as the anchor tenant in the Plaza at Gale Ranch, a new neighborhood shopping center that will serve approximately 10,000 residents in the surrounding new homes. The supermarket will be a “lifestyle” store of 60,000 square feet and will also have a Safeway Fuel Center, with discounts earned based on shopping dollars.

Other merchants that have leased space include Wells Fargo Bank, Union Bank, Ascona Pizza, a dental group, pediatric dentistry and orthodontics, Peet's Coffee & Tea, and Fat Cactus Bar & Grille, an upscale Mexican restaurant.

A dramatic fountain at the corner of Bollinger and Dougherty is in its finishing stages of construction, in keeping with the water theme throughout the neighborhood.

#### Students STAR in standardized testing

Students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District continue to perform well in all subjects and grades, according to results of the 2007 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program.

More than 75 percent of students at every grade level except one scored at the “proficient or advanced” level in English/language arts on the California Standards Tests (CST). At the elementary level, grades 2-5, which is before students take “course-specific” math, at least 81 percent of students at every grade level scored “proficient or advanced” in mathematics.

“With over 25,000 students to educate, this district continues to be a wonderful success story,” said Marianne Splenda, district Coordinator of Assessment.

This marks the 10th year in which San Ramon Valley students in grades 2-11 participated in California's STAR testing program. In grades 2 through 8, students were tested in reading, language, spelling and mathematics. In grades 9 through 11, the test included reading, language, mathematics, history-social science, and science.

Results are posted on the California Department of Education Web site at [star.cde.ca.gov](http://star.cde.ca.gov). Parents received individual student test results earlier this month.

#### 9/11 Remembrance being held in San Ramon

The Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley and the city of San Ramon will have a 9/11 Remembrance Service on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at San Ramon Memorial Park, which is on Bollinger Canyon Road at San Ramon Valley Boulevard.

The event will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude at 5:45. It will be emceed by Mark Curtis of KTVU-2 and will feature San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson, other prominent guest speakers and hundreds of Scouts with an array of American Flags.

Wilson will receive the Freedom Team Salute for service in the U.S. Army to promote the Army program, which recognizes the service of veterans, their families and their employees. Also at the service, cash prizes will be given for an essay contest entitled “How 9/11 Changed America” for students and Boy and Girl Scouts.

For more information, e-mail Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley President Karen Stepper at [coachstepper@yahoo.com](mailto:coachstepper@yahoo.com) or call 275-2412.



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## Class of 2010 opens Dougherty Valley High

Classes begin Monday for entire school district

by Jordan M. Doronila

Hundreds of students in the San Ramon Valley can start making their mark next week when they begin to attend Dougherty Valley High School, a brand new, state-of-the-art, \$150 million facility.

"They just need to take ownership," said Denise Hibbard, Dougherty Valley High School's new principal. "They have a lot of opportunities to do a lot of firsts."

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District will be opening its two new schools, Dougherty Valley and Live Oak Elementary, tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 25. Dougherty Valley's grand opening will be at 2:30 p.m. at 10550 Albion Road in San Ramon and the community is invited to take part.

All district schools, including Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley high schools, will start their new scholastic year Monday, Aug. 27.

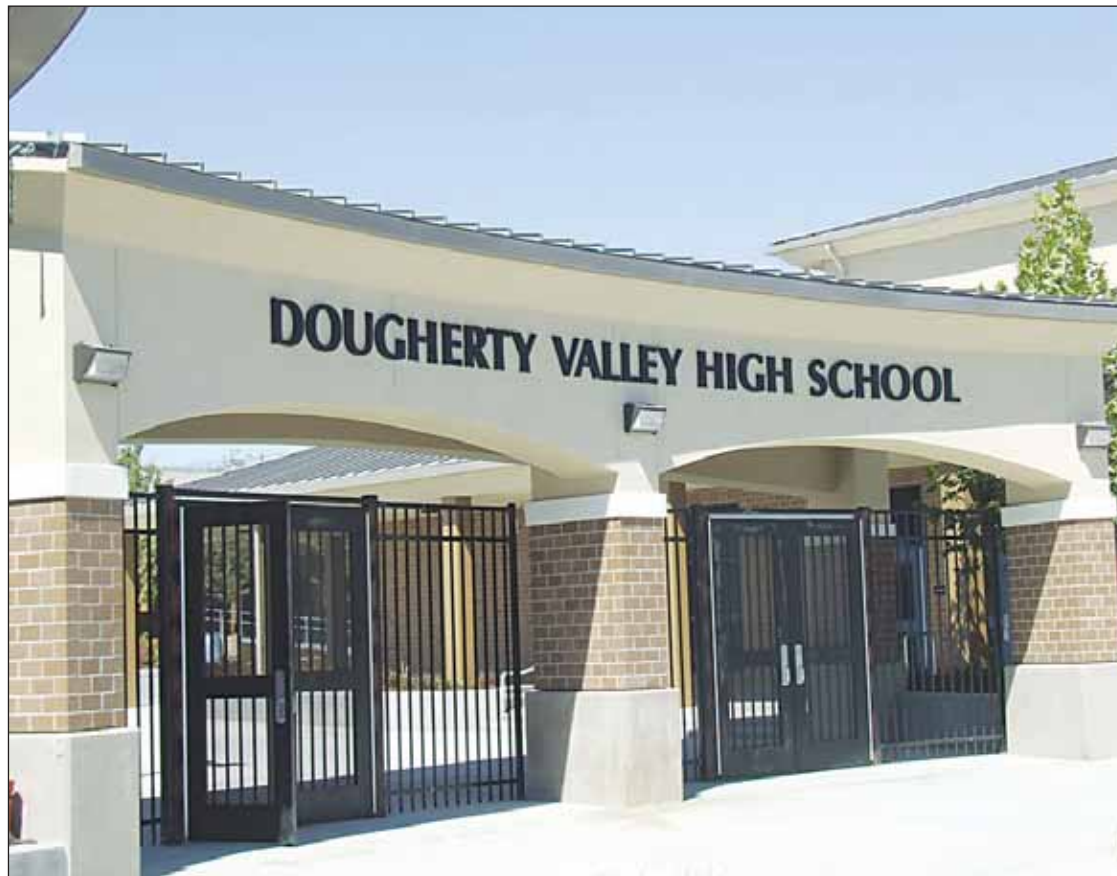
Live Oak's opening will begin

at 11:30 a.m. on 5151 Sherwood Way, also in San Ramon. Both Dougherty Valley and Live Oak are in Windemere Ranch, San Ramon's master-planned community comprising residential homes, parks, shopping and schools.

Dougherty Valley, which serves grades 9 through 12, is the first high school to open in the district in 34 years. Approximately 500-600 freshmen and sophomores will be attending this year. A total of 95 students are transferring into Dougherty Valley from other high schools in the district. Monte Vista had 51; San Ramon Valley, four; Cal High, 38; and Venture, two, said Tina Perault, senior planning and development manager for the district.

Most of the freshmen at Dougherty Valley are coming from Windemere Ranch Middle School.

"I'm very excited to open a new



JORDAN M. DORONILA

The brand new Dougherty Valley High School opens Monday and is having a grand opening tomorrow for the community.

► Continued on page 7

## Diversity grows in the Valley

School district faces changing demographics

by Jordan M. Doronila

Ethnic diversity continues to grow in the San Ramon Valley, and community leaders are wondering how schools will respond to the area's changing demographics.

The new Dougherty Valley High School, which will hold its grand opening tomorrow, will be the most diverse in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, school

administrators said.

"We are the most diverse high school in the district," said Dougherty Valley High Principal Denise Hibbard. "We are accepting of one another; embracing one another's differences; and learning from our differences."

"When you have a population that's as diverse as ours, it reflects the world we live in today," she added.

Sophomores at Dougherty Valley High have been attending other high schools in the district. For the 2006-07 school year, the majority of the students in the district

Ethnic breakdown at high schools in 2006-07								
High school	Total enrollment	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	Hispanic	Black	White
Monte Vista	2,529	5	458	6	70	97	44	1,795
San Ramon	2,146	5	146	4	19	94	15	1,722
California	2,598	22	446	15	75	158	79	1,636

Source: SRVUSD

high schools were white, coming from Danville, Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, San Ramon and the southern tip of Walnut Creek. At Monte Vista, 1,795 out of 2,529 pupils were white. At San Ramon Valley, 1,722 out of 2,146 were white; and at California High, 1,636 out of 2,598 were white.

Asians make up the second largest ethnic group at the high schools. The Asian population statistics include Japanese, Chinese, Southeast Asians, and South Asians. Filipinos are a separate category.

There were 458 Asians at Monte Vista, 146 at San Ramon, and

446 at California. At the Danville high schools, the ethnic groups of Filipino and Hispanic were fewer than a hundred.

Ethnic makeup has nothing to do with how a student performs, said Monte Vista biology teacher Patty Carothers.

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## Two trees must go

Roots breaking sidewalk on Hartz Avenue

by Jordan M. Doronila

If the two liquid amber trees outside Heritage Bank on Hartz Avenue in Danville are not removed, their roots will continue wrecking the sidewalks in that area.

"It's creating a little hazard in the community," said Town Councilwoman Candace Andersen.

To prevent more damage, the Danville Town Council approved a resolution earlier this month to remove the two trees, which are on the corner of Diablo Road, and

replace them with two autumn blaze trees. The measure also calls for rebuilding the sidewalk, brick pavers, curb and gutter and paving in that area.

"The sidewalk is heavily damaged," said Ron Allen, town assistant civil engineer. "The tree roots have been the pushing the (sidewalk) up."

The repairs, part of the town's Capital Improvement Program, will cost approximately \$25,000.

The liquid amber roots have been causing damage since about 1993, Allen said.

"Always public safety is going to win over a tree," Andersen said. "They (could) encroach into the



JORDAN M. DORONILA

The two liquid amber trees on Hartz Avenue near the corner of Diablo Road are buckling through the sidewalk and will be replaced.

bank. Someone could potentially trip."

"The Liquid Amber trees were not right for the bank," she added. "They have been buckling the sidewalks." ■

## Alamo answers

Petition to study incorporation may start circulating in September

by Natalie O'Neill

A petition for Alamo cityhood won't begin circulating until at least September, but that hasn't stopped spearheads of the movement from spreading the word.

The ad hoc incorporation committee has begun giving informal education sessions to neighborhood groups in intimate settings—gatherings of about 25.

"We take them through the material—it's very straight forward. Concerns seem to evaporate

pretty quickly," said Chris Kenber, spokesman for the seven-member committee.

The purpose is to talk about the government Alamo has today, how it would change, and why it would make a difference, Kenber said.

The smaller, more personal settings are effective since packed meeting halls have a tendency to erupt into an unorganized debate, he explained.

In Alamo, which has about 5,400 households, this small-scale grass-

► Continued on page 8

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## TAKE US ALONG



### Sailing, sailing

Liz and Ralph Overfield enjoy their Weekly while sailing on the Royal Clipper to the Grenadines and the Windward Islands in the Caribbean in December.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to [travel@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:travel@DanvilleWeekly.com) or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526.

## Cost of aquatic center takes jump

*Supporters say fundraising won't be a problem*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

The steering committee for a new pool at San Ramon Valley High School says it has good news and bad news.

The school district just declared it will pledge \$750,000 to help pay for a new aquatic center at the high school—a positive step for advocates of a community water recreation facility. That's the "good news."

The "bad news," however, is that the project estimate—formerly anticipated at \$2.4 million—has been bumped up to \$3.8 million, due to construction inflation costs. "It's a dramatic jump," said Tom Dewar, spokesman for the Danville Aquatic Center Steering Committee.

Now, under existing conditions with both the town of Danville and the Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee, the aquatics committee must secure an additional \$1.4 million by Dec. 31.

The committee has already raised \$2.4 million, pulling \$750,000 from Danville and \$200,000 from Alamo to refurbish the existing pool and add a new one.

"As of Dec. 31, the offer's off the table—beyond that, it's up," said Nancy Dommies, secretary for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Dewar is welcome to propose the date be pushed back, she added.

Committee member Marianne

Sasso said the committee has "already earmarked" its part of the contribution and noted adjusting the date was an option. Chairman Steve Mick, on the other hand, added it's "too early to tell" if the committee has that authority.

At a February meeting, where the Alamo funds were approved, Dommies said she asked Dewar if the date should be extended to December 2008. At that meeting, his response was that it wouldn't be necessary.

"It shocked the heck out of me. Why wouldn't you want to extend it?" she recalled thinking.

But despite what appears to be a time crunch, steering committee members say they're confident they will pull in the money by the cutoff date. The \$1.4 million will come from individual contributors as a backup, members said.

"I feel fairly optimistic on the fundraising side," Dewar said.

In the winter, a standing-room-only crowd piled into the Hap Magee Ranch Park's Swain house to give individual reasons for wanting a community pool.

A student swimmer detailed that he and his teammates sometimes had to practice until 11 p.m. on school days in shallow water because the facility couldn't accommodate the team. Some senior citizens detailed they would love to use a pool for aquatic aerobics, but there's nearly no time for the community to use it.

Team sports, a "free swim" time and lap swimming would be possibilities for all Danville and Alamo residents, advocates said.

Danville Town Council members and Alamo committee members noted an aquatic center would be an important recreational asset to the entire area, not just the high school.

In addition to the money put forward by Alamo, Danville and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, \$100,000 has come from the San Ramon Valley Athletic Boosters and \$600,000 has already come from individual pledges.

Right now, the school district is reviewing a master plan for how the high school will be remodeled. It is examining how the aquatic center will fit into that.

"The district is looking at what remains to be done at the high school as a whole. The pool is part of that process," said Terry Koehne, spokesman for the school district.

Its part of the contribution will most likely come from state funding, developers fees and construction bonds, Koehne said.

Construction of the pool could begin as early as next summer and as late as 2014, depending on what's decided at the district's master plan review meetings. At this point, plans are at a very early stage, Koehne said.

"It's definitely a process in it's own," Dewar said. ■

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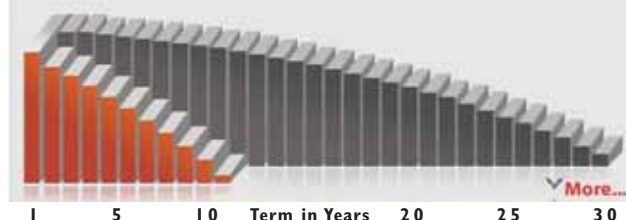
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## LPGA ramping up

Tickets will go on sale Tuesday, Sept. 4, for the 2007 Longs Drugs Challenge, which takes place the week of Oct. 4-7 at Blackhawk Country Club. Some 108 professional women golfers will vie for winnings of \$1.1 million over the four-round event, including defending champion and LPGA Hall of Famer Karrie Webb.

Single-day passes for any of the four tournament rounds are \$20 each, available at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com). Plus a \$5 discount coupon will be available at all Bay Area Long Drugs, redeemable when purchasing tickets at the tournament gate. Long Drugs outlets in Danville, Blackhawk and San Ramon will be selling single day tickets at a discounted price of \$15 although the Alamo Longs will

only have the \$5 discount coupon.

All-Tournament Clubhouse badges are available for \$100, and All-Tournament Grounds passes are available for \$50. Badges are available at the tournament office only, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Drive.

The Longs Drugs Challenge is recruiting volunteers for scoring, marshalling, VIP hospitality and more. A complete list of positions, requirements and schedules can be found at [longsdrugschallenge.com](http://longsdrugschallenge.com). Volunteers receive a Longs Drugs gift card, free tournament tickets, meals on days worked, and a volunteer appreciation party. For more information, contact the tournament office at 725-0148 or visit the Web site. ■



Professional golfer Se Ri Pak signs autographs for excited young fans at last year's Longs Drugs Challenge.

## Dougherty

► Continued from page 5

high school," said Hibbard, a former assistant principal at California High.

Dougherty Valley High is 300,315 square feet and is on approximately 54 acres. There are 11 major buildings, which include four two-story classroom buildings, a career tech facility, library and commons building, performing arts center, administration building, two gymnasiums and an aquatic center. The school can accommodate up to 2,200 students.

The aquatic center has a 50-meter Olympic pool and locker facilities. The school also has a 2,000-seat stadium and an all-weather track, two baseball fields, two softball fields and eight lighted tennis courts. The main gymnasium has 1,300 seats. And the performing arts center has a 600-seat theater, vocal and instrumental and rehearsal rooms. The school mascot is the "Wildcats."

There are currently 160 staff members. This year, high school staff will include 30 teachers, 44 coaches, 18 support employees, one counselor and two administrators. The average class size ratio is 28 to 1.

Dougherty Valley High was designed and constructed in an agreement between the school district, the city of San Ramon and two Dougherty Valley developers, Windemere BLC and Shapell Industries. Windemere BLC is a consortium between Brookfield Homes, Lennar Communities and Centax Homes.

The two developers jointly fund-

ed all aspects of the design and construction of Dougherty Valley. The costs also included technology, library books and equipment. The high school site was dedicated by Windemere BLC.

Negotiations between the district and the developers regarding the school's development began in 2001. The school was built in two stages. One stage involved site grading, utilities and paving; and the other involved buildings, landscaping and ball fields. Stage one was completed in January 2006; and stage two was scheduled to be finished by August 2007.

Hibbard said she held orientations for freshmen and sophomores earlier this week. She noted that making the transition from their previous schools to a new one is going to be difficult for them. They had already developed strong friendships and a comfort level at their previous schools.

Parents and children have expressed discomfort in past school board meetings about leaving their current high schools to attend Dougherty Valley because of the bonds they had formed with friends.

"They are transitioning," Hibbard said. "High school is a huge experience for them."

Nonetheless, she said she has seen incoming students look in awe at the new Dougherty Valley. She said her incoming students have the opportunity to forge new cultures and activities. Dougherty Valley will have its first graduating class in June 2010.

"We have a rare opportunity," she said. ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at [jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com)



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Above: Looking over the new football field at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, Principal Denise Hibbard said she is excited about the new school opening next week. The school was designed and constructed in an agreement between the school district, the city of San Ramon and two Dougherty Valley developers, Windemere BLC and Shapell Industries.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Left: Go, Wildcats! The new Dougherty Valley mascot awaits the new students on the gymnasium floor.

## Diversity

► Continued from page 7

"It doesn't matter what their racial makeup is," she said. "An awful lot how a student will perform is dependent on what happens in early education at home."

"It has to do with environment," she added.

Although in Danville, the majority of residents are white, there is a significant Asian population that continues to grow in San Ramon, especially in Windemere Ranch in Dougherty Valley. At Windemere Ranch Middle School, 46.8 percent were Asians last school year and 34.7 percent were white out of 380 students. Windemere's graduating class is going to Dougherty Valley High School.

Thom Martin, executive director of the Discovery Counseling Center in Danville, conjectured how the school district will respond to the changing demographics in the Valley.

"There is significant ethnic diversity," Martin said. "I think it's great."

District officials said they know of the Valley's population changes.

Carothers said teachers are certified in Cross Cultural Language and Academic Development (CCLAD), which helps them create workable and flexible curriculum for students who don't speak English.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

### Let high school begin

Freshman Cyrus Mirzazadeh, 14, and his father Morrey Mirzazadeh register at San Ramon Valley High School with volunteer Kathy Oster on Tuesday.

She noted they help non-English speaking students make connections by planning classes around themes and questions, using interpreters, and asking assistance from students and parents who are multilingual.

"I don't see any cultural challenges," said Carothers, about Dougherty Valley. "It's really going to be a dynamite experience for all

of them. They got so much room for flexibility."

Carothers said she has seen diversity increase in the past 30 years since she has been working in the district.

"I've seen it happening," she said. "The workforce is diverse. It's destined to happen." ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at [jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com)

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# Houston settles lawsuit

Suit claims scheme defrauded seniors

by Jordan M. Doronila

State Assemblyman Guy Houston (R, District 15) has settled a lawsuit that alleged he defrauded seniors in an investment scheme.

Plaintiffs Gerald Stefanski of Dublin, Samuel and Joann Story of Concord, and Carol Tomasa filed a civil lawsuit in 2004 against Houston and his father Fred Houston. They claimed they were

encouraged by the Houstons to invest thousands of dollars from their retirement funds; however, they said they saw little profit and lost thousands of dollars.

The lawsuit went to mediation in early August and was resolved, although terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

"The plaintiffs are happy with the settlement," said Morgan King, the attorney representing the plaintiffs. "Our clients are quite happy

with the settlement."

Houston has denied many of the claims, and has said he never had any conversations or solicited and received money from Tomasa. His lawyer, Michael W. Rupprecht, declined to comment.

Houston, a former mayor of Dublin, has declared his intention to run for Contra Costa County Supervisor for District 3, a position currently held by Mary N. Piepho. He was elected in 2002 to the State Assembly to represent the 15th District, which covers Danville, Alamo, Livermore, San Ramon, Walnut

Creek, Brentwood, Discovery Bay and part of Pleasanton but term limits prevent him from running for another term.



Guy Houston

The civil lawsuit claimed the plaintiffs had invested money with Winning Action Investments, which was operated by the Houston family and encompassed other businesses called the Investment Partnership and the Houston Napa Development. They said they have lost their money due to fraud and negligent representation, according to court documents.

The Houstons were accused of

diverting funds and other assets of the Investment Partnership to non-partnership uses; and diverting assets from the Investment Partnerships to themselves and to other business entities to the detriment of their creditors, including the plaintiffs, legal documents said.

King said he invited Houston to settle a year ago but received no response.

He noted it is important for seniors to be wary of how they invest their money.

"The problem with older people is that they tend to trust people who they meet in the community," he said. ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at [jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com)



Danville police called in the Walnut Creek bomb squad after a canine targeted a suspicious object in the US Bank.

# Bomb scare

Suspicious object at bank turns out to be glasses in bag

Shoppers watched in trepidation as police evacuated U.S. Bank on San Ramon Valley Road late Wednesday morning last week and roped off the area after an unknown male left a bomb threat on the branch's voicemail that turned out to be false.

"It's a bomb scare," said Danville Police Sgt. Troy Francis, who was supervising at the scene. "The message was very vague. The bank still doesn't have any idea why it was made."

Police responded by setting a canine, trained to detect explosives, free inside the building. The dog found a suspicious object, and the Walnut Creek Police Department's bomb squad was then called to determine whether the object was in fact a bomb.

At least 10 police vehicles arrived

at the bank, and several shoppers watched the police activity from behind yellow caution tape.

On the east side of the bank, all of the businesses, which include Valero Gas Station, were ordered to shut down. Most of the other surrounding businesses remained open although police advised business owners to shut down and evacuate to be on the safe side.

"Nothing was mandated," said Victor Casaus, owner of Pasta Gondola, which remained open. "It was a judgment call. We informed our customers."

"I've been involved with bomb threats," he added. "I think it's more precautionary than preeminent danger."

"Hopefully, there is nothing to be concerned about," added Willie Armstrong, assistant manager of Longs Drugs.

At 3 p.m., Sgt. Francis said the bomb squad did not find a bomb and that the suspicious package was a pair of eyeglasses in a brown paper bag, which was discovered in a basket on the bank floor.

—Jordan M. Doronila and Natalie O'Neill

# Dentist gets two years in prison

by Jordan M. Doronila

A judge sentenced LeRoy Albert Lewis, 73, an oral surgeon from Danville, earlier this week to two years in prison for defrauding the Internal Revenue Service, said U.S. Attorney Scott N. Schools.

The announcement of Lewis' sentencing came on Monday, Aug. 20. He pleaded guilty in May to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States. He had attempted to evade tax on income he earned from his medical practice for more than 10

years, according to legal documents.

LeRoy Lewis' son, Roy Lewis, 51, also a dentist, was convicted of defrauding the U.S., too. He was sentenced in February to serve two years in prison, U.S. Justice Department officials said.

LeRoy Lewis joined an organization based in Denver called Tower Executive Resources Ltd. in 1995. The group assisted its members to evade federal income taxes, in part by providing a false invoicing scheme to offset income the members' businesses earned.

His medical practice paid funds to Tower in exchange for bogus Tower invoices to substantiate huge false business expenses he deducted on the medical practice returns. Tower then deposited the bulk of those funds into an offshore bank account, which Lewis controlled.

His indictment alleges that he attempted to evade tax on a substantial amount of income generated from the sale of his medical practice in 1998 using a false option agreement crafted by Tower. ■

## Alamo

Continued from page 5

roots method of advocacy is unique to the area. But it's not the only way incorporation advocates plan to inform the public.

While a date hasn't yet been established, a second large community meeting will be held closer to the time petitions begin circulating.

Education before the signature-gathering process begins is important, committee members said. And many active Alamo residents agree.

"We have to go into it with our eyes open," said Karen McPherson, who worked as a liaison to Supervisor Donna Gerber and served on several local councils. She said she hopes to have some of her concerns addressed in coming weeks.

For now, the intimate ad hoc meetings are providing a question-and-answer forum—ranging from critical inquiries about the financial feasibility study to accusations of a

"hidden agenda."

"I'm concerned that the advocates haven't understood how much is involved in running a city," Steve Lange, president of the Roundhill Homeowners Association, wrote in an e-mail. He added he believes substantial investments in bonds may be necessary.

Other outspoken Alamo residents believe the seven-member committee is rife with their own interests—namely related to development and politics.

"It's a facade of special interests," said Hal Bailey, who advocates a charter town with a defined general plan and strong citizens' oversight.

Kenber said he'd heard similar sentiments arise at meetings and addressed them accordingly.

"People think there must be some secret agenda," he said. "What secret agenda? What do I have to gain?"

His goal and the goal of the group is simple, he said. It's to give the area stronger local decision-making power.

"Alamo has 5.8 percent of the vote in the county. We have essentially no leverage," he said.

At last week's meeting, time was spent debunking myths surrounding incorporation, he said. Many people believed Alamo has already tried to incorporate and failed. But the Alamo area has never tried on its own—only with Danville, he said. That vote failed but Danville residents voted to incorporate by themselves in 1982.

"There's never been a vote on Alamo itself," Kenber said.

Attempts to incorporate Alamo as part of a San Ramon Valley city also failed twice in the 1970s. In total, six efforts to incorporate with adjacent areas have occurred since the first was initiated by Alamo Improvement Association in 1956.

In addition, Kenber said the group has spent much time explaining there will be no need to raise taxes or build a city hall. Legally, there's no way to raise taxes after a city council is formed without two-thirds of Alamo voting for it, he said. That's a very difficult—and unnecessary—thing to do, he noted.

When petitioning begins, the committee must collect signatures from more than 25 percent of the voting population in Alamo. Then an incorporation feasibility study by the Local Agency Formation Commission can be conducted, which would take about 12 months. After that, voting can happen.

Signing the petition just moves the study forward, it doesn't mean you are necessarily for incorporation, Kenber explained. It just gives the area an opportunity to find out if cityhood works, he said. "Why wouldn't you want to find out?" he asked.

A vote on incorporation would likely take place in March 2009. Over 50 percent of Alamo voters would have to support the legislation in order for it to pass. ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Killing off the competition

Realtor Rob Rittenhouse had a lot of free time when he hosted open houses during last winter's real estate slump. So he pulled out his laptop as he waited for perspective homebuyers and let his imagination run wild. What if a Realtor were found dead after an open house? What procedures would the police follow? How would the unfortunate homeowners react? How would it affect other Realtors at subsequent open houses?

He had a plot for a murder mystery in his head, and he began to write, and rewrite, and call upon experts to help him get the facts right. He did historical research on the San Ramon Valley plus explored the field of self-publishing. And now his murder mystery—"Slain in San Ramon"—is in its second printing.

Rob, 60, said he's read a lot of mysteries, especially during his frequent traveling days when he did technical writing and sales training. He knows that good dialogue and strong characters are important. He centered the book on the homicide detective, calling it "A Chip Wellington Mystery." Chip is based on his son, Rob Jr., 33, a sergeant with the Berkeley Police Department, who just finished a stint as a homicide detective.

"He's a Type B person in a Type A role," Rob explained. All of which gives Wellington an engaging personality. And, lo and behold, Chip calls upon his father Mac, a Realtor, to help him go through the records of the murdered woman. This results in a bit of trouble for Mac, which I won't give away. Let's just say the two policemen assigned to protect him let their guard down for a minute, and it ain't good for ol' Mac.

Rob dedicated the book to his wife, Cal, and when he told me about their high school romance it all sounded a bit familiar. Rob is Mac! Or rather, Mac is Rob. Except in the book, Mac's loving wife has just died of cancer. But! he is beginning a romance with a woman named Annie, which happens to be Cal's middle name. The names used throughout the book will have meaning for Rob's friends and associates, just one more way he had fun with the twists and turns of writing a mystery. I found his descriptions of Blackhawk particularly interesting, as were his other Realtor insights.

He settled on WingSpan Press out of Livermore to publish his book, which let him pick and choose what parts of the process he wanted to do himself. Rob created the open house sign for the cover and took the photograph; he also sold two ads that run in the back to pay for the cost of the printing, around \$1,000. After paying the publishing

costs, Rob receives royalties as the book sells. Although the book is in its second printing, he modestly points out that each printing was only a couple hundred copies.

His descriptions of Blackhawk were particularly interesting, as were his other Realtor insights.

Rob said he now spends many hours at home in the evenings working on his next mystery, "Dead in Danville," which will be out in the fall. The body of someone from another area will be found in a vacant house in the west side of the town. This time, he has outlined the story, and he said the new book will be more narrative and rely less on

descriptive phrasing. He added that his mystery writing has become more than a hobby; he wants to pursue it as a vocation and hopes to get better and better.

"I feel a responsibility to my readers to improve," he said, "but I think my characters were good." He plans to minimize Mac's role, although I hope he keeps us informed about his romance with Annie. He said the buyers and sellers in the real estate market provide him with an unlimited source of characters. And he has fun thinking of other titles to pursue: "Accident in Alamo"? "Wiped out in Walnut Creek"?

Rob will be selling and signing "Slain in San Ramon" tonight from 5-8 p.m. at a reception at the Danville Interior Design Gallery, 9000 Crow Canyon Road. Call 648-0100. Otherwise it's available for \$14.95 at Amazon.com or by calling Rob at J. Rockcliff Realtors, 648-5377.

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

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Copper caper ends in arrest

Police arrested a 34-year-old man from Los Gatos for allegedly burglarizing copper wire from Green Valley Elementary School in Danville last week.

Daniel Todd, 34, of Los Gatos, went through a construction area in Green Valley on Sunday night, Aug. 12, and was taking copper wiring around 10:30 p.m., said police Sgt. Troy Craig. A security guard confronted Todd and asked what he was doing.

The suspect pretended to be a contractor working on the site; however, the guard did not believe him and told Todd that he was going to call the police, Craig said. Upon hearing this, Todd ran and drove away from Green Valley in his green four-door 1996 Toyota Camry.

"The security guard was sharp enough to realize (the implausibility) of people doing construction on a Sunday," Craig said.

Police caught Todd on Blackhawk Road and Silver Maple Drive. He was arrested on charges of commercial burglary.

Because of the rising demand, Craig said, the price of metals has been going up. Thieves have been looking to steal metal such as copper and sell it to a recycling company. Additionally, they may sell copper wire to unsavory contractors, who may sell it to their clients, police said.

"It's up to the contractors and site foremen to protect their sites," Craig said. "We can't keep an eye on all of them at the same time."

—Jordan M. Doronila

## POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

### Sunday, Aug. 12

- Accident, major injuries, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and Del Amigo Rd. at 1:15 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cavalry Ct. at 1:33 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Podva Rd. and Podva Ln. at 2:18 p.m.
- Commercial burglary, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 8:38 p.m.

### Monday, Aug. 13

- Vandalism on Indian Home Rd. at 7:11 a.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 8:59 a.m.
- Drugs violation, arrest, on Starmont Ct. at 7:27 p.m. and 8:08 p.m.

### Tuesday, Aug. 14

- Credit card fraud on Sky Terrace at 8:18 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and El Capitan Dr. at 9:12 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Diablo Rd. at 12:53 p.m.
- Petty theft on Indian Home Rd. at 1:40 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Del Amigo Rd. at 1:52 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Fostoria Way at 2:25 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 6:11 p.m.

- Robbery on Blackhawk Rd. and Camino Tassajara at 7:17 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 7:31 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Montair Dr. at 8:44 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on southbound I-680 on-ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:23 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:13 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 15

- Bomb threat on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:46 a.m.
- Auto burglary on St. Francis Dr. at 10:08 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:24 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Town and Country Dr. at 6:32 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:40 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Belleterre Dr. and Triomphe Ct. at 8:14 p.m.

### Thursday, Aug. 16

- Petty theft on Greenbrook Dr. at 10:07 a.m.
- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:23 a.m.
- Grand theft on Love Ln. at 12:25 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Gil Blas Rd. at 1:59 p.m.
- Petty theft on El Dorado Ave. at 2:09 p.m.
- Burglary, miscellaneous, on Brookside Dr. at 2:11 p.m.

- Accident, major injuries, on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 2:32 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:03 p.m.
- Battery on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 7:21 p.m.
- Verbal disturbance, arrest, on Greenbrook Dr. and Harlan Dr. at 9:39 p.m.
- Battery on Hardester Ct. at 10:48 p.m.

### Friday, Aug. 17

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 12:42 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on northbound I-680 off-ramp and Stone Valley Rd. at 2:17 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Clydesdale Dr. at 3:11 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Diablo Rd. at 9:02 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 12:24 p.m.
- Battery on Railroad Ave. at 2:06 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Green Valley Rd. at 7:56 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 18

- Battery on 400 block of Hartz Ave. at 2:07 a.m.
- Petty theft on Diablo Rd. at 5:43 a.m.
- Grand theft, all other, on Holbrook Dr. at 6:27 a.m.
- Auto burglary on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 11:27 a.m.
- Battery on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 11:40 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Joe A. Callaway

Joe A. Callaway, 85, a resident of San Ramon, passed away Aug. 3.

He was born June 1, 1922. He moved to the San Ramon Valley three years ago from Belmont where he lived and raised his family for more than 40 years. He was a retired aircraft maintenance manager for United Airlines where he worked for more than 35 years. He was a decorated war hero receiving a Bronze Star Medal and three Bronze Battle Stars as he served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1940-45.

He was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Dorothy, in 1999, and by a son, Wayne. He is survived by two sons and their wives, Joe and Jeannie Callaway of Danville, and Terry and Donna Callaway of Las Vegas, and a daughter-in-law Laverne of Hemet, Calif. He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Aug. 18 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville.

### Lorne 'Mac' McDonald

Lorne "Mac" McDonald, 85, passed away at home on Aug. 8.

He was born Feb. 14, 1922, in Alberta, Canada. He moved to San Carlos as a young child and remained in the area throughout his life. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II between 1942 and 1946. In 1983, he retired from AT&T after 35 years of service.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 59 years, Jeanne; son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Lori McDonald of Danville; daughter Lori McDonald of San Ramon; and five grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Community United Church of Christ in San Carlos, open to all. The family suggests donations to the American Cancer Society.

### Frank E. Stanko

Frank E. Stanko, a former resident of Pleasanton, died on Aug. 8. He was born on Aug. 2, 1943.

He will be remembered for his love of running, sports, geography, history, music and especially his wit and sense of humor.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Yvonne. He is survived by Scott and Danielle and their spouses, Jennifer and Kevin; and six grandchildren. A Memorial Mass was held Aug. 16 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville.

### Flor Lisa B. Pena

Danville resident Flor Lisa B. Pena passed away Aug. 10.

Visitation was held Aug. 16, with a blessing service, at Jess C. Spencer Mortuary in Castro Valley.

### Patricia E. Griffiths

Danville resident Patricia E. Griffiths, 83, passed away peacefully at her home Aug. 13. She was born July 25, 1924.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Darwin Griffiths. She is survived by her sons Gary (Gloria) Griffiths of Sierra Madre, Calif., and Patrick (Peggy) Griffiths of Denver; daughter Gayle Jones of San Antonio; and her brother, Bill Jessen of Utah. She was the loving grandmother of nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Aug. 17 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley. Donations may be made to your favorite charity in the name of Patricia Griffiths. A private interment will be held at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette.

### Barbara L. Thomas

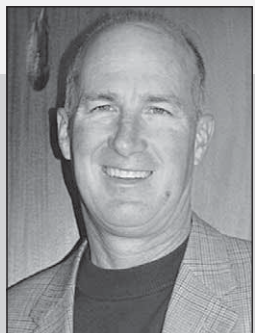
Danville resident Barbara L. Thomas, 47, died suddenly Aug. 14 from respiratory complications.

She was born Nov. 30, 1959. She worked at Crosslink Capital for seven years and recently had started a new job at Saints VC. She enjoyed life to the fullest with her golf "outings," especially getting an eagle before her son; her swim team "buddies" at Pacific Masters; her referee "calls" with Mustang soccer; and her "extra" time with the East Bay Astronomical Society.

She is survived by her husband William; her son Will; her brother Russ; her mother Polly; and her sister Marie, who all will miss her comical phone calls during her daily BART rides. A memorial service was held Aug. 21 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley. Donations may be made in her memory to Deerfield Academy, Mr. Tom Henry, 7 Boyden Lane, Deerfield, MA 01342.

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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 page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



## Round Hill swimmers good all around

The Round Hill Country Club 7-8 Girls Freestyle Relay Team (l-r) Rachel Hendricks, Isabella Barattolo, Alexa Fusari and Allyson Satterfield are thrilled with their upset victory in the finals of the Contra Costa County Swim Championships on Sunday, Aug. 19. The team was seeded fifth going into the preliminary

race in the morning and came out seeded second. Then the Round Hill girls won the finals race in the afternoon with a time of 1:01.72.

The Round Hill Country Club Boys 6 and under Medley Relay Team came in Second at the weekend's County Swim Championships. The boys also swam in the freestyle relay together and placed fifth overall. Celebrating with ice cream are (l-r) Nicholas Fusari, Tristan Sinclair, Scott Glueck and Scott Burkland.

## What a Rush

The Mustang Rush U13 girls dominated the Santa Clara Rotary Club Cup, shutting out its first three opponents 10-0. The championship game was no different, when the Rush faced the San Francisco Valkyries. The Rush was down 1-0 but came out in the second half with a vengeance to win 5-1. Top offensive players: Erin Jefferies, Brooklyn Graditi and Alyse Cronin. Top defensive players: Amy Ingram, Devon Gasparini, Veronica Robinson and goalie Olivia Romero. Scoring goals were Erin Jefferies—5; Brooklyn Graditi—4; Alyse Cronin—2; Molly Zieger—1; Nicki Pryt—1; and Veronica Robinson—1.



## Hotspurs stay hot to win invitational

The Mustang U12 Hotspurs won the Santa Clara Sporting Invitational over the Aug. 10 weekend, a tournament that ranks No. 2 in Northern California at Gotsoccer.com.

In the quarter-final game against the State Champion Placer team, defensive efforts by George Waidelich and skilled play by midfielder Ryan Ringelstein helped the boys turn on the heat to win 2-1.

The team kept up the pressure through the semi-final game against El Dorado, and then defeated De Anza in the final game, winning 3-0. Defender Andrew Evans helped keep the opponents at bay and also stepped up to score one goal for the weekend. Forward Nico Ginocchio battled through defenders and scored three goals for the tournament.

## U14 Rampage still No. 1

The U14 Mustang Rampage girls won the Mustang Stampede Tournament over the Aug. 10 weekend. This second summer tournament win bolsters the Rampage's No. 1 position on the Gotsoccer.com national ranking. The Mustang Stampede Tournament drew more than 200 teams, ranging from 9 to 19 years old from all over the country, including other 14-year-old teams from Texas, Washington and Utah.

To defend their Mustang Stampede Title, Coach Joe Owen and the Rampage girls defeated Santa Clara, two teams from Southern California, the Utah Avalanche, and San Juan, allowing no goals and scoring 12 total goals for the weekend tournament.



## Eagles fly in Santa Clara

The Mustang U12 Eagles hit the soccer fields and placed fourth at the Santa Clara Rotary Cup over the Aug. 17th weekend. This annual tournament, sponsored by the Santa Clara Rotary Club and

the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League, hosted 96 teams and 1,700 participants. The Eagles played the Windsor Extreme Heat, Folsom Extreme, D Force Black 95, and Almaden Wildcats. The girls worked together to be successful and bring home the hardware.

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Keep local planning voice**

The San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission should not only be kept in existence, its decisions should be given respect and backed up.

This planning commission was established in 1977 along with the East County Regional Planning Commission. The idea was for the seven members in each body to deal with planning issues in the area where they live. They review everything from subdivision maps to rezoning to general plan amendments. The members also handle basic concerns such as home occupation permits, simple lot splits and minor subdivisions.

The Contra Costa County Planning Commission, on the other hand, is responsible for projects that are viewed as having regional significance, as well as dealing with issues in unincorporated Central County.

Now the County Planning Commission is recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission be allowed to dissolve after its Oct. 7 renewal date, saying that much of its jurisdiction has been incorporated or developed. Supervisors said at their July 24 meeting that they wanted community input plus more research before making a decision on whether to allow the group to dissolve.

True, the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission had more land to deal with before Danville and San Ramon were incorporated, in 1972 and 1983, respectively. But the reason for a local planning commission is still valid: It is the only body with all of its members residing in the San Ramon Valley. The County Planning Commission has seven members, one appointed by each of the five supervisors and the other two chosen by the group as a whole.

Important decisions will be made in the San Ramon Valley in the years to come. This region also covers Alamo, Diablo, Blackhawk and the unincorporated area just east of Danville. While consolidation may seem to make sense because the County Planning Commission could handle the additional workload, this is not the point. The residents of the San Ramon Valley must have representatives to give input on local planning.

But the reason for a local planning commission is still valid: It is the only body with all of its members residing in the San Ramon Valley.

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition.

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Dolores Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Houston stabbed friend in back**

Dear Editor:

I wrote the following letter to Assemblyman Guy Houston:

Your announcement to run against Supervisor Mary Piepho is, in my opinion, a despicable move against someone who was once your friend, a supporter, a staff member and a person who once stood behind you. Anyone who would "stab a friend in the back" and look to take away her career is someone who cannot be trusted.

I believe someone who would turn against a friend is someone who would turn against the voting public. I'd like to let you know that you have shocked and disappointed a lot of your friends, constituents, citizens, community leaders and undecided voters, and many local veterans who honor the value of loyalty to friends and comrades.

You selected our Danville Veterans Hall to make your announcement. I believe this was to subliminally send a message that all veterans are behind you, certainly not the case. As a matter of fact, it has and will backfire.

Furthermore, it is unethical to seek the endorsements of prominent members of our community who already support Piepho—the gall of you to seek their support to endorse you and to go against her! This decision of yours is unbelievable and beyond most of our community's comprehension of morality and professional ethics.

So, Assemblyman Houston, the professional and moral thing for you to do is to resign your efforts against Piepho and come to her support as she would do for you if the situation were reversed. This can be done with full dignity of the leadership qualities that I believe you have.

This message is sent to you with all due respect, in hopes that you will see your decision as a terrible career error. If you choose to not reverse your announcement, I assure you Piepho will certainly be re-elected, and the friendships you once earned will never be regained.

David Miller, Danville

**House on hill an asset to Alamo**

Dear Editor:

This home (Aug. 17, "What's with the house on the hill?") is an asset to Alamo. Those who have visited Europe and appreciated and admired the ancient architecture can appreciate what is being replicated historically. There are so many homes being built that are huge, done to impress but are faux copies of classic design. They will look dated in a few years. This home is, in fact, authentic Tuscan architecture.

One can only admire the creativ-

ity, dedication, physical labor and energy Kelly Adamic has put personally into his home. He humbly just wants to build his vision for himself. He graciously gave me tours when I visited several times and took the time to explain what was going into the home (as he patiently did for so many people).

I would encourage those who are vocally critical to visit museums and gain an appreciation of historical designs. There are so many people in need in the world that this critical energy could be directed to making the world a better place, if even in some small way.

Bonnie McNamara, Alamo  
(posted at DanvilleWeekly.com)

**Thanks to preschool**

Dear Editor:

I want to acknowledge the teachers and staff at Kindercare in Danville and the difference they have made in my daughter's life. From the moment I met Miss Michelle (the equivalent of the Horse Whisperer for toddlers), the director when we started, and her staff I was put at ease. Now, almost three years later, we are leaving and I want to thank these wonderful people that made a difference in the life of my child and many others.

My sincere thanks to:

- Miss Jesse for teaching my daughter that we would be back to pick her up, how to wave at the window, for feeding her breakfast, and for teaching us how to leave the building;
- Miss Nelly for caring for my daughter during her frequent ear infections and for carrying her around the school yard to comfort her;
- Miss Melody and Miss Brandy for being so fun;
- Miss Shannon for drawing Cinderella, Ariel, and assorted Disney princesses;
- Miss Usha for being centered, experienced with children, and wonderful with parents;
- Miss Bridgette and Miss Katie for potty training my daughter, bless you, and being patient with a new parent;
- Miss Bonnie for the rules and the structure of her class;
- Miss Jyoti and Miss Alicia for teaching my daughter about the big beautiful world and opening my daughter's mind;
- Miss Erin for teaching her HOP and how to read;
- Miss Becky for teaching her tap and ballet, a love of music, and how to express herself;
- Mr. Justin for demonstrating a good male role model for little girls and boys; and
- Miss Mary, the current director, who has brought everything full circle, demonstrates her values, and who walks the talk everyday; she always gives 110 percent.

The Cavallis: Steve,  
Tonya York and Tea'

# Guest Opinion

BY MICHAEL GIBSON

## Sorting fact from fiction on Alamo cityhood

The reason the Alamo Incorporation Movement (AIM) has focused on incorporating Alamo is the same as it was for other successful local cities: They incorporated to provide better planning and control of their own land use, roadways and other infrastructure and better levels of municipal services than provided under county governance.

The record shows clearly that incorporation works. Ask your friends in Danville, San Ramon, Moraga, Lafayette, Orinda, Clayton or any other nearby city that was smaller when it incorporated than Alamo is now, whether their roads or parks were better provided and maintained by the County than they are now. Ask any who live in a town that was incorporated after Propositions 13 and 218 whether their local taxes or assessments have been increased without a vote, or at all, since incorporation. Ask them if they liked the County's planning, building or roadway decisions better than those that their city or town has made or if they preferred their decision-makers having little or no electoral accountability to them. Ask them if they wish their town had never been incorporated. Overwhelmingly they will say no.

Recent letter writers to the Danville Weekly raised concerns about how incorporation would affect Alamo that conflict with the easily available facts. Some claim that Alamo couldn't afford to provide service levels equal to or better than the County and that these services can be provided more cost effectively by county government than town government. Some claim Alamo would need staff or facilities that it couldn't afford and that residents would see tax increases and increased

bureaucracy.

Fortunately there's an easy way to answer these claims —by reading the Initial Fiscal Analysis of the Proposed Incorporation of Alamo (IFA),

The Initial Fiscal Analysis shows that Alamo would generate an operating surplus over the next 10 years while providing better service levels than currently available.

by Economic and Planning Systems (available at [www.alamoinc.org](http://www.alamoinc.org)). This is the only credible, unbiased set of facts available to the Alamo community. It calculates a 10-year revenue stream based upon actual data. It presents a preliminary service plan, staffing plan and estimates of costs based upon actual costs and staffing for the three nearby towns of Lafayette, Moraga and Clayton. It shows that funds are available, without the need for new taxes, to provide services equal to or greater than now provided under County governance. These funds would be used exclusively in Alamo. The IFA provides for modest but sufficient leased office and meeting facilities within already existing buildings. As most cities and counties contract for capital improvements such as roads and parks, and often for maintenance improvements as well, maintenance or storage yards are not needed.

The IFA, prepared by an experienced and objective outside consulting firm with broad knowledge of local government, shows that Alamo

would generate an operating surplus over the next 10 years while providing better service levels than currently available from the county. Together with other benefits of incorporation, including Alamo's ability to determine its own future, elect its own council and implement its own vision, this makes a compelling case for incorporation.

The incorporation process must be initiated by a petition of 25 percent of Alamo's registered voters, due to kick off momentarily. It's important to note that a successful petition does not authorize incorporation. It does authorize the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), an independent State agency, to conduct a legally required feasibility study and determine, with detailed public input, the boundary, revenues, staffing, costs, etc., for Alamo. With a few options, the initial structure of new city/town governments is prescribed by State law. These structural determinations are also part of the public LAFCO process.

The information already available from the IFA is sufficient to justify your decision to support beginning the LAFCO process. So, when asked by one of your fellow residents to sign the petition, I hope you will sign it so that you can get further facts on Alamo incorporation, and give yourself and your neighbors the final say. We are convinced this is the right path for Alamo and that a full examination of the facts will convince a broad majority of our fellow Alamo citizens.

*Michael Gibson, a member of the Alamo Incorporation Movement, has lived in Alamo for 22 years. He has served on the Board of the Alamo Improvement Association for 21 years and the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission for 13 years.*

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# Running Man

Sparky George pursues his daily runs to help families of soldiers who gave their all

story and photos by  
Jordan M. Doronila

“Sparky” George Cave runs for his nonprofit group, Hats Off America, which is having its eighth Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run and 5K Walk to raise money for families of soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**T**railer Trash. His mother went one way, his father went another—but they both abandoned “Sparky” George Cave and his siblings in a trailer 44 miles north of Danville some 50-plus years ago.

In spite of his hard childhood, Sparky, 58, now a Danville resident, managed to rise above the garbage through sweat, grit and a ferocious determination. And he continues to sweat, running through town every day, shirtless with his hairy chest bulging outward and his carved biceps swinging, while carrying a five-pound weight with an American flag that covers his buttocks.

“The American flag is for my brothers and sisters who are protecting my ass,” he said.

His daily runs are for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are part of Hats Off America, which is Sparky’s nonprofit foundation dedicated to raising money and awareness for these families. He believes they may feel alienated.

“I know what it feels like to be disenfranchised. These families didn’t sign up. Americans should be taking care of Americans,” Sparky said. “We could do more jointly.”

“They pay the ultimate price,” he added, about the soldiers. “They will not be forgotten.”

Sparky’s nonprofit group will host its eighth Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run and 5K Walk, rain or shine, on Saturday, Sept. 8, at Sycamore Valley Park on Camino Tassajara beginning at 10 a.m. The run is one of several fundraisers Hats Off conducts during the year. Casino nights, blood drives, comedy nights and car shows are other events held by his group. They will help provide financial support to families of soldiers who died.

The September event will have runners and walkers heading out in opposite directions on Camino Tassajara but ending back at the starting point. There will be a barbeque at the conclusion.

Hats Off has raised \$15,000. The money goes into annuities, and families will be contacted when enough

dollars have been made to contribute to them.

“It is a far cry from what we need,” Sparky said. “It’s stepping stones. One thing at a time.”

Diane Layfield, mother of Travis Layfield, who was killed in action on April 6, 2004, will be present at the September run, and San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson will start it off, Sparky said. He noted he has asked several politicians in Northern California to run. A representative from Contra Costa County Supervisor District 3 Mary N. Piepho’s office will also participate.

Entry fee is \$35 per person. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and a barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers.

Sparky said his parents abandoned him and his brother and sister when they were little in a trailer in Vacaville. After police found them in three days, Sparky and his siblings went to foster parents and ended up living in Oakland.

Indeed, he did. He lived during the race riots in the 1960s when he attended Fremont High School. He recalled a blonde girl being thrown out of a building and the principal being hit by a brick. He also remembered police cars getting overturned. He had to fight his way to get into school.

“I fought,” he said. “I was lucky. I wouldn’t back down.”

Upon graduating high school, he went to Laney





Sparky's enlivens his Classic Car Auto Restoration and Repair with hard mementos of beer.



Sparky, bare-chested as usual, works diligently at his auto shop.

College in Oakland. But he soon enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps when his draft notice arrived during the Vietnam War.

"I wasn't going to run away," he said. "It was my duty to serve my country."

He enlisted in 1970 and was stationed at Camp Pendleton near San Diego and then in Japan. When he returned, he went back to college to get his associate's degree in auto shop and business. Soon he started his own auto business. He married and had two daughters, but then he and his wife divorced.

He got the name of "Sparky" because two girls who he dated—separately—said his eyes sparkled when he got excited.

He had an auto shop in Castro Valley while being a single dad.

"I was called a full-time single mommy," he said, recalling how he used to check his daughters' homework, fix them dinner and cook them breakfast. "It had to be done."

"It was the hardest thing when they left," he added.

When he married for the third time, he moved to Italy with his wife. But he felt the U.S. was his home and decided to move back.

"This was nice," Sparky said, about his move to Italy. "But I'm going home."

He sold his Hayward home and bought a home in Danville less than 15 years ago at an affordable price.

"Lucky me," he said.

He said he has been married four times and is open to being married again. "I'm a romantacist," he said.

Now, he owns and operates Classic Auto Restoration and Repairs in San Ramon. However, he is most widely known in the community as the almost-naked man who runs with just an American flag covering his rear. He is



Sparky's sign that says "Sparky International Classic Auto Restoration and Repairs" hangs proudly above the American Flag.

known as the Bear Flag Runner, because of the silver bear necklace he wears given to him by a shaman in Arizona, and due to his running "bare" regardless of weather.

In honor of service personnel being deployed in Iraq, he has been running six miles a night, five days a week with a five-pound weight, regardless of weather, since Sept. 15, 2002.

"People are honking when they see me," Sparky said.

He appreciates the encouragement.

"Honk loud and proud. Let me know that I'm not running alone." ■

### Running for a cause

Hats Off America will host its eighth Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run and 5K Walk, rain or shine, at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Sycamore Valley Park on Camino Tassajara.

Other fundraising events held each year include Casino Night, the Muscle Car, Hot Rod & Art Fair; and Red T-Shirt 10KRun/5K Walks in November, February and June.

Contact Sparky George at 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com The site www.hatsoffamerica.us includes links to other organizations that support our troops. Hats Off America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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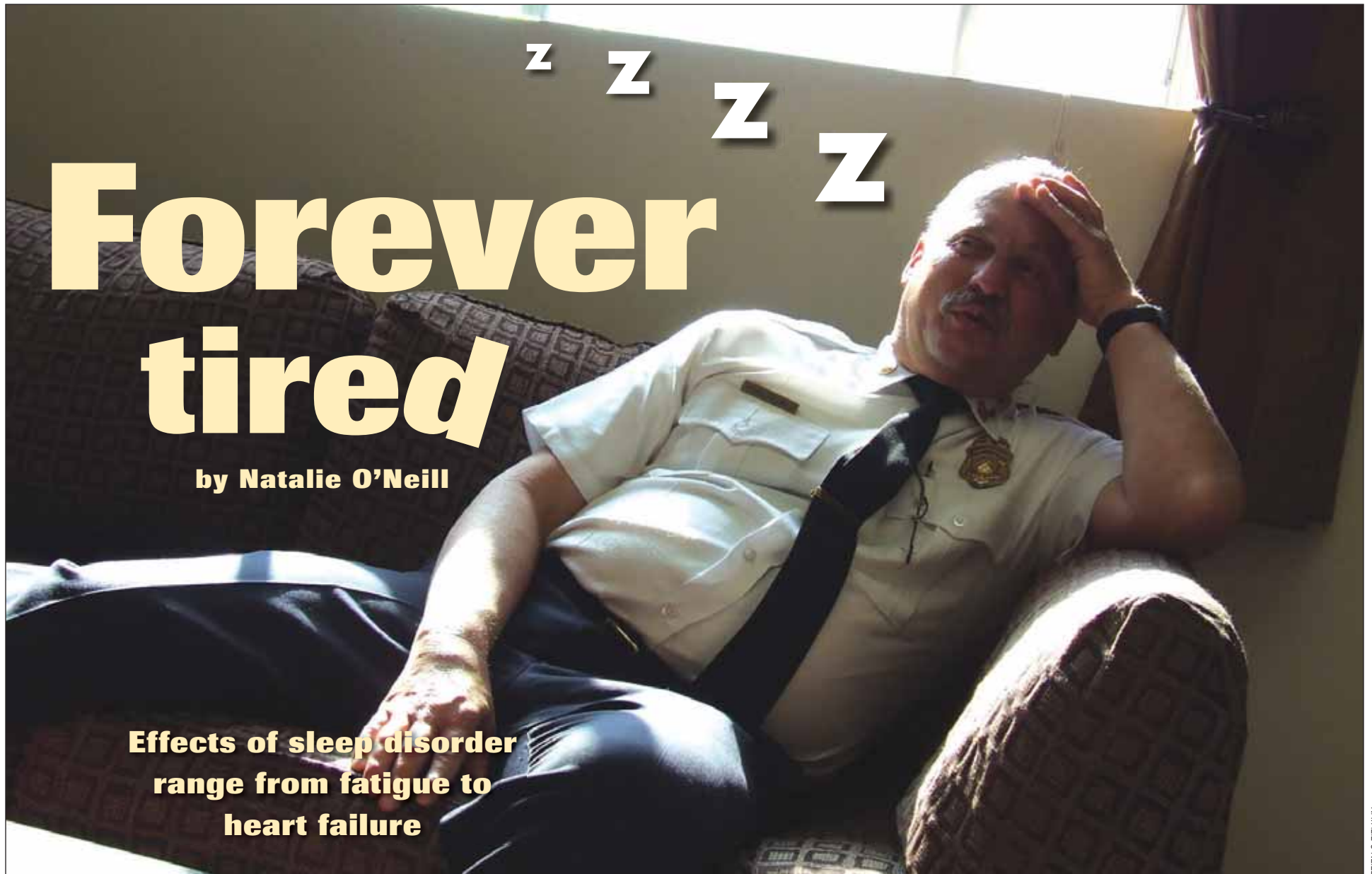
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# Forever tired

by Natalie O'Neill

Effects of sleep disorder range from fatigue to heart failure

Until he was diagnosed with sleep apnea, Fire Chief Tom Gallinatti wasn't getting enough oxygen to his brain during sleep, leaving him exhausted all the time.

Tom Gallinatti woke up gasping for air.

The 48-year-old fire chief was dreaming he was underwater—kicking violently to the surface for a breath. But the harder he paddled, the deeper he sank.

“My heart rate was racing—I was suffocating,” he remembers.

Thinking back, the Danville man says the dream was one of the first signs that he had developed sleep apnea, a disorder that affects one in five American adults. It occurs when breathing stops in intervals during sleep, as a result of a collapsed airway in the throat.

In his case, the drowning dream was his body's way of telling him something was wrong.

“It made me realize how many people die in their sleep. I could have easily had a heart attack,” he said.

Like Gallinatti, most sufferers of sleep apnea don't know they have it. In fact, it is estimated that as many as 90 percent of all cases remain undiagnosed.

Since the struggle for air occurs in a subconscious state, many people with the condition just know they feel tired all the time—and can't figure out why.

Because the brain, lungs and heart are not getting enough air, the body is kept in a state of alert, making a deep, satisfying sleep unattainable.

In Gallinatti's case, he was waking up every two minutes, not to the point he could

sense it, but to the degree that he was unable to rest effectively.

“My body was kick-starting itself to breathe and I didn't know it,” he explained.

Eight months ago, before he was diagnosed, he had no idea why he was so tired all the time. The second he would sit down, he'd pass out. He would drift off watching a movie with his wife, chatting with his sons—even driving in the car.

“I'd wake up literally one lane over in traffic,” he cringes to remember.

On a typical weekday, he'd begin his morning with exercise that would keep him going through the workday, but right after his job slowed, his body would force sleep upon him.

“I felt like I was hung over every morning, even after six or seven hours of sleep. I just accepted that's how life was,” he said.

Then his brother, who had been recently diagnosed with sleep apnea, suggested he take an online test to see if he had symptoms. Gallinatti had heard of the disorder, but associated it with overweight and elderly people, not active middle-aged men.

In reality, each year about 4 percent of men and 2 percent of women over the age of 35 are diagnosed with sleep apnea, according to the National Institutes of Health. Of these, many are in otherwise good health.

Along with fatigue, moderate effects include irritability, sexual dysfunction, learning and memory difficulties. More serious

consequences include congestive heart failure, stroke, irregular heart rhythms, cardiovascular disease and fatal car accidents.

After some encouragement from his brother, Gallinatti took a quiz online and tested very high. He then spent the night at a “bed and breakfast” for sleep apnea testing, where sleep specialists kept track of how many times pauses in his breathing occurred in the night.

During the testing, doctors determined he needed to begin treatment while sleeping, using continuous positive airflow pressure in the form of a face mask. The mask helps air get to his lungs during sleep by applying air pressure to his nasal airway.

Since beginning the treatment, he has noticed his energy level increase dramatically.

“My productivity level has gotten so much better,” he says, and he's no longer dosing off in traffic.

Loud snoring, being 20 to 30 pounds overweight, having high blood pressure, a short, thick neck, or a family history of sleep apnea makes a person more susceptible. Some studies show those who have stressful, irregular work hours are more prone to the condition.

Sufferers are also three times more likely to get into car accidents, according to a study conducted by the UC San Diego school of medicine. In fact, 980 car accident fatalities every year could be prevented, the study says.

Contrary to popular belief, the machine

used for treatment is not too loud, Gallinatti said, especially compared to the snoring that accompanies untreated sleep apnea. The machine starts off slowly and picks up in the middle of sleep.

“My wife says it's a lot quieter than my snoring,” he said.

And the treatment doesn't obstruct sleeping with a partner.

“You can still hold and embrace each other, it doesn't get in the way of intimacy,” he explained.

Now, Gallinatti says he's noticed little things about his life are getting better. He gets more awake time with his family, for one.

“The other day, I sat down and watched an entire movie with my son without falling asleep. I haven't done that in years,” he says. ■

**Do YOU have sleep apnea?**

To learn more about sleep apnea or to take a sleep apnea assessment test online, visit [sleepapneainfo.com](http://sleepapneainfo.com).

# The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. HEIDI STRAND

## Make outings with dog enjoyable by using the right type of collar

**Q.** My dog pulls constantly when we try to walk him. The choke chain we bought doesn't help at all. Do you recommend getting a pinch collar? He weighs almost 90 pounds, but we want to be able to walk him.

**A.** The problem with choke chains and pinch collars is that they are very difficult to use correctly. The idea behind a choke chain is to have the collar loose, and leave slack in the leash while walking. When the dog starts to pull, the chain collar becomes smaller and smaller, if you have put it on correctly. Eventually, it tightens to the point of hurting and the dog is forced to stop. A dog who is going to respond to a chain collar will quickly learn to stop as soon as he hears the links running through the ring. If the collar has to be pulled constantly, then it's not working for that dog. One possibility is that you have put it on incorrectly. Another possibility is that it is either too small or too large for your dog. And then there are the dogs that just don't get it, who will pull and pull until the point of choking and gagging, causing people to stop and stare at you!

Prong or pinch collars operate on the same principle of negative reinforcement. Pulling by the dog causes the collar to tighten, which is uncomfortable due to the prongs, so the dog stops. These come in many sizes and weights and will not work unless the correct size is used. While many dogs respond to these collars, dogs with thick coats may not. They can cause injury if used improperly. Most people don't like the look of prong collars.

At our shelters, we often use a head collar called the Gentle Leader. It goes around the dog's muzzle just under the eyes and also buckles around the dog's neck. When the dog pulls, pressure on the muzzle brings the head down toward the neck and stops the dog very effectively. (A similar device called a hackamore is used for training horses.) The dog can bark, drink and even pant with a Gentle Leader on. The Halti is a similar head collar. A Sensible Harness, which fits around the dog's shoulders and chest, and contracts when he pulls, is also an option. These products are widely available at pet stores and usually work very well for big, headstrong dogs.

Whatever type of collar or harness you use, try to pair it with positive reinforcement. Remember, at walk time he only has one thing on his mind and that is to see what's going on outside. Positive reinforcement works like this: when the dog pulls, you stop walking. Eventually the dog takes a step back toward you, you praise the dog for not pulling, and start walking again. In time, he will learn that this is the only way he's going to get on with the walk, and outings will be much more enjoyable for both of you.

—Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to [hstrand@eastbayspca.org](mailto:hstrand@eastbayspca.org). Her column runs every other week.

### OF NOTE

## AAUW awards scholarships



Diana Reyes and Nicole Olivares, two of the AAUW scholarship winners.

Five local women are pursuing higher education with help from the Danville/Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The organization recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Jennifer Lemberger, Nicole Olivares, Diana Reyes and Katherine Taylor. The Jane Trittipio Memorial scholarship, for \$1,750, was awarded to Jennifer Casey. The scholarship monies were generated from the AAUW holiday home tour held in December plus donations from individuals who supported this effort. The scholarship winners were chosen for their academic achievements and community service.

Katherine Taylor, a 2001 Monte Vista graduate, is currently attending UC Irvine School of Medicine. She graduated from UC Davis with honors and a B.S. in Genetics. She has a strong interest in women's health and plans to enter a residency program in obstetrics and gynecology.

Jennifer Lemberger is currently attending Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. She is seeking a Master of Public Health Degree (MPH), in Epidemiology. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a double

major; a B.S. in Biological Sciences and B.A. in Art Studio. She is a 1998 graduate of Carondelet High School, and she grew up in Danville.

Diana Reyes was to matriculate into the UCLA Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program in July 2007. She received her B.A. in Integrative Biology from UC Berkeley. She graduated from Moreau Catholic in 1995. Her family resides in San Ramon.

Nicole Olivares graduated with honors from UC Santa Barbara in 2005 with a degree in biopsychology (neuroscience). She will start in the UCLA School of Dentistry program in September and has been a dental assistant to Dr. Mary Johnson in Danville for two years. She graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 2001.

Jennifer Casey is currently at Touro University School of Medicine in Henderson, Nev. She will start a residency/internship in internal medicine and, then, a fellowship in endocrinology, and has worked with AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps. She is a 2000 graduate of California High.

## Diablo woman top in advisers



Taryn Sievers

Diablo resident Taryn Sievers was named this month in the San Francisco Business Times'

Bay Area Top 25 Women Wealth Adviser list.

Taryn has worked at Morgan Stanley in the Oakland branch since May 1984. Prior to this honor, she was recognized in the Times Bay Area Top 50 Wealth Advisers and in the Barron's Top 100 Women Financial Advisers list.

She has lived in Diablo since 2000 with her husband, Vince Chow, and two children.

## New director for Wardrobe

Jacqueline D. Brown, Wardrobe for Opportunity board president, announced that Michelle Augenstein has been named the new Executive Director for Wardrobe for Opportunity. She has been with the group since 2004 and during her tenure has served as Volunteer Coordinator, Resource Development Coordinator and Program Manager. She also has nine years experience in management and operations.

"She is well versed in fostering effective relationships and community development," said Brown. "Michelle has shown that she is very dedicated to Wardrobe's mission, and her contagious enthusiasm and positive attitude speak to her passion for her work."

The organization outfits clients with professional attire and helps them prepare for job interviews. During an initial appointment with a volunteer "personal shopper," a client receives two complete outfits including shoes and accessories for upcoming interviews. Client referrals come from more than 70 partner social service agencies.

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# The Wine Guy



BY GREGORY PEEBLES

## 2005 Vinum Cellars 'Pets' Petite Sirah

Wilson Vineyards, Clarksburg

BevMo!—Danville, \$11.99; Lunardi's—Danville, \$13.99

Spill this wine on your favorite white sundress or Tommy Bahama shirt? If so, you must hope the dry cleaner is a magician or you'll be saying "so long" to the garment. The purple-black color is totally opaque. Wow! Remember, swirl carefully.

Aromas are reminiscent of blackberry jam and bushes of fresh raspberries. Olfactory senses are further intrigued by hints of violet, lead pencil, white pepper and bramble. Again, wow!

It's a medium bodied wine which possesses bright, tart blueberry and cassis flavors. The silky texture is wonderful. Unfortunately, this vintage is short on both complexity and typical Petite Sirah intensity after the initial rush of dark fruit.

"Pets" jumps back on track with a relatively lengthy

finish. It definitely reminds me of the delicious berry cobbler served at the Salt Lick BBQ in Driftwood, Texas.

On the topic of BBQ, Petite Sirah is terrific with sausage, tri-tip, brisket or any red meat prepared over an open flame. For my vegetarian readers, pour a glass and enjoy it with a thick, 3-alarm, black bean chili.

Even though this wine will probably not provide the body or breadth and intensity of flavors coveted by most long-time fans of Petite Sirah, it could be a very good introduction to the varietal for novices. As always, trust your palate to be the final judge.

*Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at [caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net).*

## Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



SAN RAMON VALLEY ALAMO, DANVILLE, AND SAN RAMON BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZZINE

The old San Ramon school is affectionately remembered by its students, who attended until it closed in 1951.

## San Ramon Grammar School

San Ramon pioneers started schools for their children very early. In the "History of Contra Costa County (1882)," it says the first San Ramon school was built in 1852 at the "foot of the eminence which is known as Cox's hill, near the village of Limerick (San Ramon)." Other early and at-home schools are mentioned as well.

Then, after one failed election in 1864, on Oct. 27, 1866, voters supported a tax of \$2,000 to purchase land and erect a new school house. This classic and still-remembered San Ramon Grammar School was built in 1867 and served the community until 1950. Ebenizer Dole, a carpenter, built the all-wood San Ramon School. The building measured 46 by 26 feet in dimensions, had a 13-foot high ceiling and an impressive bell tower.

"The building is one among the neatest and best arranged school houses in the county," according to a writer for the Contra Costa Gazette in 1874.

J.D. Smith recalled one early teacher, Miss Everett from Stockton, who used to read a chapter from the Bible and pray. She had some problems with the older boys and "would shed tears because of their conduct." Albert J. Young was the first teacher at the 1867 school, teaching from 1867-1869 and 1873-1877. There was a small and a large room, with grades 1-4 in the small room, and grades 5-8 in the large one.

In 1874 the trustees were W.W. Cox, George McCamley and Mrs. J.O. Boone. In 1880 the northern boundary of the grammar school district was established between the Meese and Baldwin properties. (Meese's property is today's Greenbrook Homes.)

The San Ramon School provided schooling and a social center for the community for over eight decades. For years it provided the only space of any large size. Howard Wiedemann and Leo Lynch remembered

removing the school's central partition for parties. The building was used to celebrate May Day, have flag ceremonies, spelling bees and meetings. Viola Lynch said that all social occasions occurred there until the San Ramon Hall was built in 1911. For nearly 50 years it was the heart of the community.

The school was enlarged in 1876. During the 1890s, enrollment stayed around 110. In 1896 the school grounds were beautified by the San Ramon Public Hall Association. These improvements included new fence and stile on the south side; rustic seats throughout the grounds; an awning for the girls' yard, and ring and bars for the boys.

After the Danville Union School District was created and a modern four-room school was built in 1922 near the San Ramon Valley High School, the San Ramon trustees discussed joining that district. In 1945 farmer Roger Schulte, an educator, and rancher Fred Wiedemann debated the issue again. But San Ramon stayed with its own district until 1965 when all valley grammar and high school districts unified.

A new school, the second, was built in 1949 and opened in 1950 with three rooms at the start. The original 1867 school building was razed in 1960. Today a plaque from the San Ramon Valley Historical Society on San Ramon Valley Boulevard northwest of Fostoria marks the location of the long-lasting and well-loved San Ramon Grammar School.

*Sources: Contra Costa History Center, Museum archives, Contra Costa Gazettes in 1874, 1894 and 1896, James D. Smith letter in 1925, Valley Pioneer Centennial edition, 1958.*

Beverly Lane, a longtime Danville resident, is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."

A review of what's **AT THE MOVIES**

**Death at a Funeral**

★★★★

**Rating: R for language and drug content**  
**Run Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes**



"This is bloody grim, isn't it?" one brother remarks to his sibling, as they stand before their father's coffin.

Because one expects sadness and a particular degree of decorum at a funeral service, the outrageous chain of events that unspools in director Frank Oz's wickedly funny comedy provokes more laughter than if this upper-crust British family and their friends were gathering at a birthday celebration. The remarkable ensemble cast plays its parts with a seriousness befitting the solemn occasion. The inappropriate and uncontrollable laughter that you hear will be your own.

Screenwriter Dean Craig ("Caffeine") has crafted a sitcom of social embarrassment. The structural idea is simple: Gather a group for the funeral of a beloved man. Toss in a bottle of hallucinogenic pills mislabeled as Valium and a mysterious stranger. When Martha (Daisy Donovan of "Millions"), the niece of the deceased, unknowingly gives her nervous boyfriend Simon (the scene-stealing Alan Tudyk of "Knocked Up") a tablet of acid, he starts to behave in the most peculiar ways. Simon's social gaffes draw stares and gasps from the others in attendance. But before his trip can become a tiresome one-note joke, the small-stature stranger (Peter Dinklage of "The Station Agent") complicates matters by revealing a big secret to a select few.

The Brits with their stiff upper lips and sense of propriety provide the perfect foil for all the silliness. Matthew MacFadyen ("Pride & Prejudice") sets the tone when the wrong coffin is delivered to the family's country estate. Although concerned about the whereabouts of his father's body, dutiful-son Daniel also mutters in disdain that he might have provided "a service for some random member of the public." Much humor emerges from the haughtiness of a social class about to get its comeuppance.

Remove the British accents and references to cups of tea and this comedy could take place anywhere. Family dynamics, money problems and blackmail are universal. Because his successful-novelist brother (Rupert Graves of "V for Vendetta") has just flown in from the Big Apple—and is clearly their mother's (Jane Asher) favorite—sibling rivalry surfaces with arguments over who should pay for the funeral.

Whether directing "The Muppets Take Manhattan" or "Bowfinger," Oz can deliver fast-paced comedy with an abundance of visual and verbal gags. The actors have perfect comic timing, and their dead-pan reactions to shocking developments are exercises in understatement. One of the best scenes occurs in the study. Stunned over the stranger's allegations, Daniel's gaze ricochets from one of his father's familiar objects to another and another. Suddenly, he sees the objets d'art in an entirely new way. As he leaves the room, an older relative relates a seemingly innocent childhood memory that confirms the son's worst fears and ends the scene with a verbal punch line. Instead of hammer-on-the-head humor, this farce offers a comic subtleness rarely seen anymore.

"Death at a Funeral" is less concerned about burying the family patriarch than bringing relationships back to life. The comedy doesn't have much to say, but its humor is killer.

—Susan Tavernetti

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

# Calendar

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

## Author Visit

**Rob Rittenhouse** Danville Interior Design Gallery will host a book signing with Rob Rittenhouse and his new book "Slain in San Ramon" from 5-8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 24, at Danville Interior Design Gallery, 9000 Crow Canyon Rd., Danville. Books can be purchased by visiting J. Rockcliff Realtors, 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Clubs

**AAUW Membership Brunch** Danville-Alamo American Association of University Women (AAUW) Membership Brunch will be held from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 15, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$30. Prospective members are welcome. Call 736-9798 or visit [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org).

**Valley Stitches Guild** The guild will celebrate its 40th year celebration with guest speaker, Mary Manzo, on Monday, Sept. 10. The guild usually meets at 10 a.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodward Lane, Pleasant Hill. Dues are \$25. Call Marie at 947-5817.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75** The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month, at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## Events

**9-11 Remembrance Service** Remember those that were lost on 9-11 at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at San Ramon Memorial Park, on Bollinger Canyon Rd. at San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson will give a welcome speech and there will be speakers, scouts, bagpipers and an essay contest with cash prizes for students. Call 275-2412.

**Alamo Block Party** Alamo Rotary Club will host the 25th annual Alamo Block Party and Alamo Music and Wine Festival from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Alamo Plaza in Alamo. Activities will include fun for the kids in the afternoon, youth bands all day and fun for all in the evening. Proceeds will benefit Alamo schools music programs. Visit [www.alamore.org](http://www.alamore.org).

**CCC Master Gardener Garden Walk** Six unique gardens will be included in the CCC Master Gardener Garden Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, in Lafayette,

Orinda, Walnut Creek and Martinez. Early registration is \$15; \$20 after Aug. 31. Call 672-2315.

**Funfair Family Day** Bedford Gallery will host a Funfair Family Day from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Activities will include creating your own self-portrait, making sock puppets and more. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 295-1417 or visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org).

**Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk** San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson will start the Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Cost is \$35, including a red t-shirt and a barbecue lunch after the run. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**Patriots and Heroes Week** USS Hornet Museum will host Patriots and Heroes Week from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 11-16, at USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave, Pier 3, Alameda. Firefighters, rescue and law enforcement staff and military personnel will receive complimentary admission. General admission is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit [www.hornetevents.com](http://www.hornetevents.com).

**Synergy Research Institute Essay Contest** Synergy Research Institute will host an essay contest for students ages 8-18 in regard to the items that are wrong in the "Inconvenient Truth" (book or movie) until Sept. 5. Entries should be not longer than one page and should be sent to: Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon 94583 or [ako9@yahoo.com](mailto:ako9@yahoo.com). Winners will be announced on Sept. 5.

**Walking Tours of Historic Danville** Museum of the San Ramon Valley hosts walking tours of historic downtown Danville at 6:15 p.m., every third Friday through October with Karen Stepper and at 10 a.m., every second Saturday, through October with a museum docent, meeting in the front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

## Exhibits

**America's Love of the Automobile** Worthington Gallery West will host "Pin-ups and Pinstripes" exhibit with the 25th anniversary of the Goodguys Rod and Custom Association's hot rod and custom car event from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 24, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Call 485-1183 or visit [www.worthington-gallerywest.com](http://www.worthington-gallerywest.com).

## Fundraisers

**Garage, Garden and Boutique Sale** Helping sick or injured animals during the "Just Like New" garage, garden and boutique sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at 4510 Entrada Court, Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit Valley Humane Society and the Just Like New Fund. Call 846-2512.

**March of Dimes** March of Dimes will host numerous events to provide funding for saving babies from birth defects and mortality including: Signature Chef's Event on Thursday, Sept. 20, at Palace Hotel, San Francisco; 29th annual day of golf on Monday, Oct. 29, at Olympic Club, San Francisco. For information, call (415) 217-6363 or visit [www.marchofdimes.com/ca](http://www.marchofdimes.com/ca).

**Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series** Coldwater Creek, Inc. will host a fundraising event for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series from 4-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at Coldwater Creek, Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton and from 5-7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at Coldwater Creek, Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. Shoppers will receive a 10% discount off of all merchandise which will be donated to the Komen Foundation. Visit [www.coldwatercreek.com](http://www.coldwatercreek.com) or [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

## Health

**Low Vision Workshop** Low Vision workshop will provide information to those that are affected by macular degeneration or other low vision conditions from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 8, at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. This event is free. Call (408) 739-1846.

## Holiday

**Rosh Hashanah** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews holds a Secular Humanistic Jewish New Year celebration of music and readings, followed by the traditional apples and honey; honeycake and challah at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost is \$10 for non-members 13 and over; free for members and under 13. Call 485-1049.

## Kids and Teens

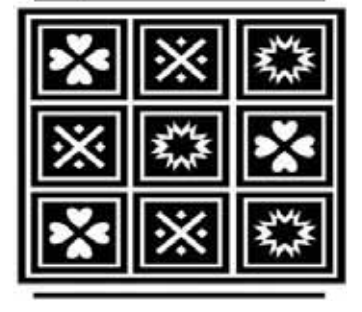
**Horseless Carriages** Blackhawk Museum will host a family funshop "Horseless Carriages" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

### See quilters in action

Museum of the San Ramon Valley at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in Danville is hosting an exhibit of Ethel Selberg's scrap quilts until Sept. 23. Quilting demonstrations are from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Aug. 25 and Sept. 8. Call 837-3750.

## Quilts



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Circle, Danville. The funshop is drop-in for children ages 3-10 and is free with museum admission. Call 736-2277.

**Jewish Culture School** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host "Introduction to Jewish Culture School," twice-monthly Secular Humanistic Sunday school, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Sept. 9, at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Intermarried and non-traditional families welcomed. Call 485-1049 or visit [www.tri-valleyculturaljews.org](http://www.tri-valleyculturaljews.org).

**Making College Affordable** Danville Library will host a workshop on "Making College Affordable" at 6:15 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Call 837-4889.

**Masks and Mime** Danville Library and Eliot Fintushel presents "Masks and Mime" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Program is suited for children ages 5 and up. Call 837-4889.

**Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session** Danville Library will host a Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Registration is required and will begin on Sept. 15; call 837-4889.

## Lectures/Workshops

**Hope Hospice End-of-Life Workshop** Hope Hospice will host a 8-week End-of-Life workshop from 6:30-9 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 10-Oct. 29, at Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin

Blvd., Suite C, Dublin. Cost is \$75 general; \$120 with CEU's. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

**Laughter Playshop** Laughter has numerous health benefits, especially for the immune system. Share the benefits of laughter and participate in simple improvisation exercises to make you laugh from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 25, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients and their family and friends. Call 933-0107.

**What's New in Breast Cancer Treatment** The Wellness Community will host a seminar on the latest breast cancer research including advances in treatment from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30, at Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite A and B, Pleasanton. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

## Literary Events

**Two Cities, One Tale** Residents of Danville and San Ramon are coming together to read "Locked Rooms," by Laurie R. King from Sept. 17-Oct. 29. A free copy of the book is available at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. or at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call 837-4889.

## Miscellaneous

**Adopt a New Best Friend** Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at [www.tvlar.org](http://www.tvlar.org).

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

**Recycle for Breast Cancer** Recycle for Breast Cancer is open seven days a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs, at 31 Beta Ct., Suite C, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit [www.recycleforbreastcancer.org](http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org).

## On Stage

**'Peter Pan'** Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Peter Pan" from Aug. 31-Sept. 29, at Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$17-38. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlra.org](http://www.dlra.org).

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**Hank Williams: Lost Highway**  
Center Repertory Company presents a musical story of the legendary Hank Williams, "Lost Highway" from Sept. 6-Oct. 6, at Center Repertory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org).

**'Talking With' by Jane Martin** Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents a black box production of "Talking With" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 7-8 and 14-15, at Danville Town Meeting Hall, 210 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 838-2296 or visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com).

## Political Notes

**76th Anniversary Barbeque**  
Democratic Party of Contra Costa and Contra Costa County Central Labor Council will host the 76th Anniversary Barbeque from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. Cost is \$35, \$30 for seniors/students, \$70 for families. Call 295-2107.

**Imagine Peace Candlelight Vigil**  
Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center and MoveOn.org will co-sponsor a Peace Vigil to commemorate the national "Take a Stand" Day from 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 28, at Veterans' Plaza, at Civic & Broadway, Walnut Creek. Call 933-7850 or visit [www.mtdpc.org](http://www.mtdpc.org).

## Seniors

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

**Buzz Sessions** Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors from 1-2:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400.

**Prime Time** Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$3.50 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call 820-6387.

**St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart'** Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m.; bring brown bag lunch from until August, beverage, fruit and dessert are provided. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

## Support Groups

**Alamo Women's CODA Meeting**  
Co-Dependents Anonymous (CODA) is a fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. The group meets from 1-2 p.m., Mondays, at United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Visit [www.sfbaycoda.org](http://www.sfbaycoda.org) or [www.coda.org](http://www.coda.org).

**American Chronic Pain Association** The ACPA group meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

**Bipolar Support Group** The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

**Blue Star Moms California** Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org).

**Celebrate Recovery** Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 736-5100 or visit [www.eastbay-fellowship.org](http://www.eastbay-fellowship.org).

**Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women** Support Group for FIBRO, CFF and Chronic Pain meets 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail [dsashby@msn.com](mailto:dsashby@msn.com).

**Overeaters Anonymous** The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. There are many different groups that meet at different times and places, visit [www.dvig.org](http://www.dvig.org).

**PFLAG** The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

**SRV Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous** Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org).

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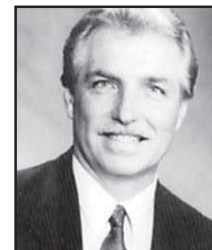
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## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2007

Danville	Lowest sale reported:	\$1,000,000
Total sales reported: 39	\$2,050,000	Average sales reported:
Lowest sale reported: \$466,000	Highest sale reported: \$3,550,000	\$1,000,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,100,000	Average sales reported:	<b>Walnut Creek</b>
Average sales reported: \$1,128,013	\$2,800,000	Total sales reported: 14
		Lowest sale reported: \$490,000
	<b>Diablo</b>	Highest sale reported: \$1,941,500
	Total sales reported: 1	Average sales reported: \$892,500
	Lowest sale reported: \$1,000,000	
	Highest sale reported:	
<b>Alamo</b>		
Total sales reported: 5		

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during July 2007

**Danville**  
**204 Abigail Circle** Prudential Relocation to M. Feldman for \$885,000  
**649 Adobe Drive** C. & R. Brazeal to A. & A. Perez for \$940,000  
**5444 Blackhawk Drive** Kosich Trust to D. & M. Lemma for \$2,625,000  
**101 Blackstone Drive** J. & S. Haley to E. Chong for \$839,000  
**103 Blossom Court** C. Davidson to D. Doud for \$664,000  
**301 Bolero Drive** Ingraham Trust to D. & A. Smalley for \$1,078,000  
**600 Derbyshire Place** Hodges Trust to P. & C. Perrone for \$944,000

**70 Haskins Ranch Circle** G. & A. Albrecht to S. Feldman for \$845,000  
**782 Highbridge Lane** B. & E. Bitowft to K. Seney for \$885,500  
**1001 Horizon Court** Rose Trust to B. & W. Hyder for \$1,180,000  
**358 Karelian Street** Shapell Industries to C. & M. Fraser for \$502,000  
**133 Kingswood Circle** M. Rooney to R. & K. Quinn for \$862,500  
**155 Lawnview Circle** J. & B. Casson to D. Parnas for \$580,000  
**2130 Lusitano Street** Shapell Industries to C. & G. Vevoda for \$1,244,000  
**2138 Lusitano Street** Shapell Industries to E. & L. Lim for \$953,000  
**2146 Lusitano Street** Shapell

Industries to L. & N. Molendyk for \$1,457,500  
**2162 Lusitano Street** Shapell Industries to Herbert Trust for \$1,174,000  
**2443 Marsanne Street** Lennar Homes to H. & J. Alexander for \$1,258,500  
**25 Meadow Lake Drive** Montkarl Limited to C. Brennan for \$2,650,000  
**1462 Menton Street** Lennar Homes to J. & K. Leahey for \$1,033,500  
**1468 Menton Street** Lennar Homes to A. & L. Sapiandante for \$1,093,500  
**1474 Menton Street** Lennar Homes to K. & L. Hunt for \$1,057,500  
**491 Montcrest Place** I. Veritas to J. & P. Pryor for \$2,250,000  
**1246 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to D. & R. Duque for \$1,060,500

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# DANVILLE WEEKLY OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: [www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real\\_estate](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate)

### ALAMO

**3 Bedrooms**  
**59 Hagen Oaks Ct.** \$1,049,000  
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 788-4380  
**3157 Miranda Ave.** \$1,349,950  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 984-6788

**4 Bedrooms**  
**46 Vista Ln.** \$1,445,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499  
**29 Tam O Shanter Rd.** \$1,575,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 837-7110  
**3079 Stonegate Dr.** \$1,988,000  
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 510-612-8008

### BLACKHAWK

**3 Bedrooms**  
**293 Live Oak Dr.** \$1,250,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451  
**3661 Country Club Ter.** \$2,198,000  
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818  
**3670 Silver Oak Pl.** \$749,999  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 413-1068

**4 Bedrooms**  
**7 Red Birch Ct.** \$1,895,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 577-4165

**5 Bedrooms**  
**3357 Deer Hollow Dr.** \$2,499,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 817-9079  
**3401 Deer Ridge Dr.** \$2,549,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818

**6 Bedrooms**  
**5483 Blackhawk Dr.** \$3,450,000  
 Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239

### DANVILLE

**2 Bedrooms**  
**581 Old Farm Rd.** \$614,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 998-1818  
**152 Westfield Cir.** \$619,900  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

**3 Bedrooms**  
**120 Montair Ct.** \$1,695,000  
 Sun 2-4:30 J. Rockcliff Realtors 672-2499  
**2134 Presidio Ct.** \$638,000  
 Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel 510-910-3864  
**1173 Delta Wy.** \$864,950  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-5453

**4 Bedrooms**  
**20 Cannes Ct.** \$1,049,900  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600  
**196 Mont Blanc** \$1,095,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410  
**441 Scout Pl.** \$1,149,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 457-4551  
**663 Bourne Ct.** \$1,299,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4035  
**718 St. George Rd.** \$1,375,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 By Owner 858-8379  
**553 Verona Ave.** \$1,385,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 699-3527  
**7 Red Birch Ct.** \$1,895,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 577-4165

**944 La Gonda Wy.** \$889,000  
 Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3337  
**407 Triomphe Ct.** \$998,950  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-0717  
**246 Abigail Cir.** \$999,999  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 451-7287

### 5 Bedrooms

**405 Skycrest Dr.** \$1,029,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883  
**60 Casablanca St.** \$1,050,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 998-1818  
**24 Campbell Pl.** \$1,399,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 202-7424  
**105 Estates Dr.** \$1,689,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883  
**881 El Pintado Rd.** \$2,595,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4115  
**29 Meadow Lake Dr.** \$2,799,980  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451  
**1901 Peters Ranch Rd.** \$5,498,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

### DIABLO

**5 Bedrooms**  
**2540 Caballo Ranchero** \$3,998,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

### SAN RAMON

**2 Bedrooms**  
**108A Norris Canyon Pl.** \$385,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508  
**610 Joree Ln.** \$567,900  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 314-4803

**3 Bedrooms**  
**7714 Lakemont Pl.** \$695,000  
 Sun 1-4 Synoptic RE 408-314-7468  
**4549 Sweetgale Dr.** \$864,500  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

**4 Bedrooms**  
**401 Kevin Ct.** \$649,000  
 Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 785-9373

**2600 Campeche Ct.** \$899,500  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

**5 Bedrooms**  
**3071 Sorrelwood Dr.** \$1,333,000  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-2239  
**901 Regency Ct.** \$1,399,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4:30 Coldwell Banker 831-3337  
**4021 N. Donovan Wy.** \$775,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

### WALNUT CREEK

**3 Bedrooms**  
**1800 Alma Ave., #207** \$950,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 415-505-3536

### DUBLIN

**3 Bedrooms**  
**4513 Peacock Ct.** \$829,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**5 Bedrooms**  
**5172 Grayhawk Ln.** \$1,294,500  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

### PLEASANTON

**5 Bedrooms**  
**8044 Golden Eagle Wy.** \$3,885,000  
 Sun 1-4 Empire 963-8294

### LIVERMORE

**4 Bedrooms**  
**5348 Hillflower Dr.** \$620,000  
 Sun 1-4 Re/Max 828-7799

# J. Rockcliff



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### DANVILLE

**Privacy & Seclusion Close to Town \$1,695,000**  
Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo and Valley from this beautifully redone contemporary home. 3bd, 3ba, slat floors, soaring ceilings and more.  
**McDougall Team 925.672.2499**



### ALAMO

**Park-Like Setting \$1,699,000**  
Peaceful and quaint with large pond and mature landscaping. 3bd, 2.5ba, spacious kitchen/family room combo. Separate workshop/guest house.  
**McDaniel Callahan Team 925.838.4300**



### ALAMO

**Westside ~ Nearly One Acre! \$1,649,000**  
Enjoy the most incredible views. 4bd, 2.5ba, beautifully remodeled throughout with completely new kitchen, gorgeous new flooring and more.  
**Lisa and Greg Doyle 925.855.4046**



### ALAMO

**Absolutely Stunning in Roundhill C.C. \$1,575,000**  
Single story, 4bd, 3ba, remodeled granite kitchen, updated baths, shutters, wood floors, custom paint. New pool, spa & waterfall. 3-car garage.  
**Joyce, Glen & Monica 925.837.7110**



### DANVILLE

**Immaculate Condition \$1,574,950**  
Highly upgraded 5bd, 4ba home with all the bells and whistles. 1bd/1ba downstairs, granite, stainless, inlaid hardwood floors and great views!  
**Bonnie King 925.736.8411**



### DANVILLE

**Stunning 5 Bedroom "Havenwood" \$1,499,000**  
5bd, loft, bonus room/retreat off master, 5ba, 4260+/-sf and over \$400K in upgrades. Gourmet kitchen, polished marble baths, 3-car garage & more.  
**Khrista Jarvis Team 925.855.4065**



### DANVILLE

**Priced To Sell!!! \$1,399,000**  
Incredible value! Spectacular views in the heart of Danville. 5bd, 4ba, large bonus/game room, huge gourmet kitchen, main-floor master.  
**Julie Long 925.683.9799**



### DANVILLE

**A Glorious Setting! \$1,389,000**  
Drop dead gorgeous French country custom in Sycamore on private 9-home greenbelt. 4bd, 2ba, all new systems, stunning upgrades. Truly special!  
**Loraine Ward 925.855.4123**



### DANVILLE

**Danville Station Remodel \$1,149,000**  
Like new 4bd, 3ba with top-of-the-line upgrades. Slab granite countertops/custom cherry cabinets in kitchen. Pella windows & doors & more.  
**Karen Bentz 925.457.4551**

Walnut Creek  
1700 N. Main St.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
925.280.8500

Orinda  
89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925.253.7000

Danville  
15 Railroad Ave.  
Danville, CA 94526  
925.855.4000

Blackhawk  
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle  
Danville, CA 94506  
925.648.5300

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