

## Passion for the arts

Danville teen heading to top performing arts school > page 15

Vol. 1, Number 3 • May 20, 2005

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### Perfect tackle

49er subdues armed robber with Weekly's help

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# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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### Hurray for hockey

Tri-Valley Blue Devils best in state

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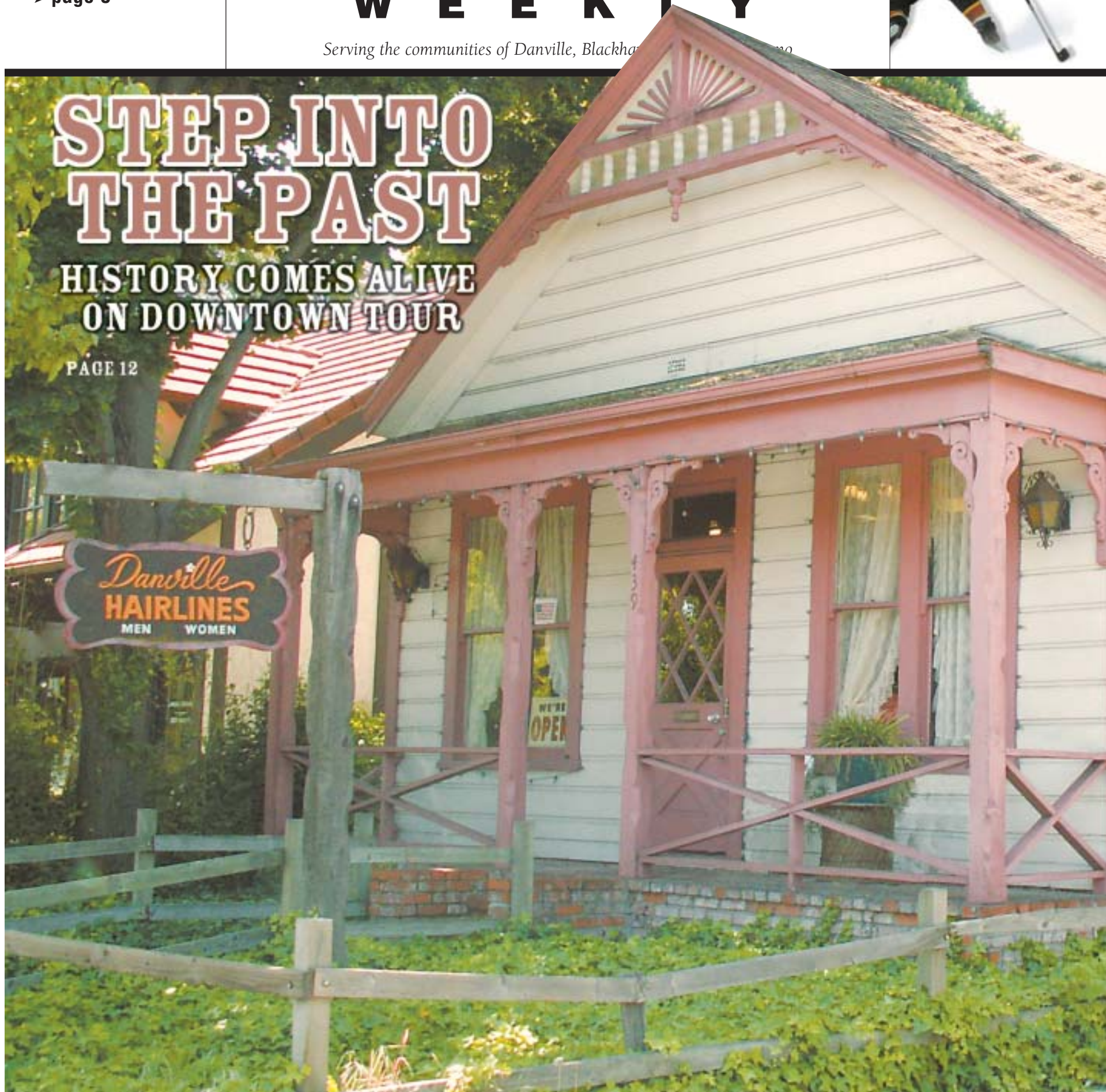
## STEP INTO THE PAST

HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON DOWNTOWN TOUR

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Danville  
HAIRLINES  
MEN WOMEN

WE'RE  
OPEN



## Avoid 6 Costly Errors When Moving to a Larger Home, and Save Thousands

**Danville** - A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make when moving to a larger home.

Unlike the experience of buying a first home, when you're looking to move up, and already own a home, there are certain factors that can complicate the situation. It's very important for you to understand these issues before you list your home for sale.

Not only is there the issue of financing to consider, but you also have to sell your present home at exactly the right time in order to avoid either the financial burden of owning two homes, or, just as bad, the dilemma of having no place to live during the gap between closings.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report, entitled "6 Mistakes to Avoid When trading Up to a Larger Home."

These six strategies will help you make informed choices before you put your home on the market in anticipation of moving to a larger home.

To hear a brief, recorded message about how to order your copy of this FREE report, call 1-800-294-0437 and enter ID# 1007. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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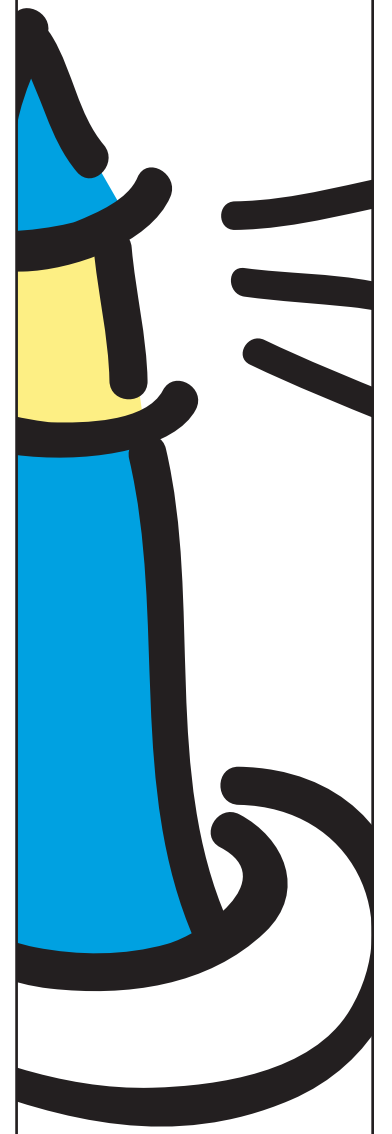
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**Q: Given the high price of gasoline, have you altered your driving habits? Will you change your lifestyle or car purchasing plans?**



It's not a big, big deal because we can afford it. But it affects people when they come up a little short at the grocery store. I think the prices are going up because of the war in Iraq. That's the only thing I can think of to cause this rise in prices. To people who don't travel to the other parts of the world it may seem like a lot, but elsewhere, like in Mexico, they pay more.

**Victor Nuno**  
*tree trimmer*



Not at all, because my car is pretty gas efficient. My husband's is not, so the only thing is that we try to take mine instead of his. But I can still fill up for under \$25.

**Hannah Ulbrich**  
*high school teacher*



I haven't changed my driving habits, but we were thinking of getting a larger SUV in the next three to four months. But now we're scaling back to a mid-size SUV.

**Tom Hussey**  
*Realtor*



No. Maybe I'm not driving as frivolously, like not going to see if that book is in the bookstore versus calling them.

**Steve White**  
*investor*



No, we haven't, only because we live in the Danville community and everything is close and so convenient. Everything that you need is within a mile or two. I think if we lived somewhere else, it would be different.

**Andree Sehrt**  
*homemaker, and former health care administrator*

## ABOUT THE COVER

This charming house at 439 Hartz Ave. is one of several in a row built circa 1890s in the Folk Victorian style. It is on the route of the Walking Tours of Old Town Danville given by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley during the summer months. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ I realized it was a lady so I wasn't going to give her the full 'football' treatment. ”

—Brent Jones, former 49er, after chasing down an armed robbery suspect in the Livery

### Discovery Counseling Center launches fund drive

The Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley hopes to raise \$50,000 in its annual fundraising campaign. The Danville nonprofit center provides comprehensive and affordable mental health services for all ages, including school-based and preventive programs.

“The Discovery Counseling Center has been a vital piece of this community for years,” said Andrea Stephenson, board member and annual campaign co-chair. “The budget for Discovery has been pared to the bone. The only way we can offer Discovery's program is by raising contributions from the community.”

The center plans to reach its goal through phone call nights, direct mail and an appeal for “President Round Table” donors of \$1,000 or more. For information, contact interim director Thom Martin at 837-0505 or [tmartin@discoverycenteronline.com](mailto:tmartin@discoverycenteronline.com).

### High schools make top 1,000

The May 16 issue of Newsweek magazine evaluated all 27,468 U.S. public high schools and ranked the top 100 in its print edition and the top 1,000 online. Both of Danville's high schools made the top 1,000.

Jay Mathews, the Washington Post education reporter who came up with the rankings, used a ratio to rank high schools. The ratio is devised from the number of Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students at a high school in 2004 divided by the number of graduating seniors.

Monte Vista High was ranked 568 with a 1.482 ratio and San Ramon Valley High was ranked 800 with a 1.235 ratio.

Mathews argues that regardless of how they do on the tests, students who take advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses are better prepared for college than students who don't

The top ranked high school was Jefferson County in Irondale, Ala.

### Town needs volunteers to 'Lend a Hand'

In celebration of Older Americans Month, the town of Danville is asking residents to come out for a day of light yard work June 4 to help senior neighbors clean up their yards. Volunteers will be assigned to one of eight selected residences. They can bring their own gloves and tools.

Applications to volunteer must be submitted to Danville Senior Services by May 31. “Lend a Hand Day” starts at 9 a.m. at the Danville Library and ends at 2:30 p.m. For information, call Christine Mabry at 314 3176.

### Sewer rate increase deferred

Last year the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District approved a 3 percent sewer rate increase per year over the course of three years. However, this year, due to rate increases at other public agencies, the board decided to defer the 2005-06 rate increase.

CCCSD collects, treats and disposes of wastewater for more than 440,000 residents and businesses, including those in Alamo, Danville and Blackhawk, at an estimated cost of \$42 million.

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



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HWAD1-7/04



**Book bonanza** Volunteers Janis Dunn and Anna Lam work at the recent book sale held by the Friends of the Danville Library. It raised almost \$2,500, said organizer Elizabeth Johnson, which will be used to keep the library open extra hours and to purchase new books. Reading enthusiasts traveled from near and far to check out the offerings, which sold for \$1 each. One man from Napa said he'd found out about the sale at bookfinder.com, which lists all the book sales by area. If you missed the sale, don't despair—there's another one scheduled for July 15-17, plus the Friends maintain a Bookstore in the library, which is open during regular library hours. Donations of books in good condition are also accepted, as well as videos, books-on-tape and CDs. For information about joining Friends of the Danville Library, call 938-READ (938-7323).

## Danville middle-schoolers to get a space of their own

*Town buying portable classrooms to be used as teen centers at schools*

by Casey Reivich

Students at Charlotte Wood and Los Cerros middle schools will have a space of their own this fall.

The Town of Danville just approved the purchase of portable classrooms for the after-school programs at Charlotte Wood, Los Cerros and Diablo Vista middle schools. Presently the programs, which are administered by the town, take place in classrooms, said Michelle Lacy, recreation services manager of Danville.

The programs have been offered for several years now, Lacy said, and have been popular, with 75-100 students registered and 30-40 students showing up daily. But the town believed it could be better, she added.

"It's been difficult logistically," said Sandy Budde, principal at Charlotte Wood. "Now that they're going to have their own

place, we're really excited. Together we can work it out so students can be well provided for."

The new 1,400-square-foot portable classrooms will be on school property but will be separate from school buildings, said Lacy. Presently, the program runs from 2:45-5 p.m. The new teen centers will be open until 6 p.m.

Talk of separate teen centers began last January. With the help of the Danville Youth Council of students from the middle schools, and the San Ramon Valley Coalition for Youth Safety and Development, the town collected feedback from students on what they wanted from their after-school program.

The overwhelming response was they wanted a place to call their own, said Lacy.

"It's hard for them to have a good time

► Continued on page 8

## Former 49er tight end turns tackle to stop robber

*Brent Jones and Weekly exec capture woman with gun*

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Former 49er Brent Jones was quick to give chase and tackle a suspect after she allegedly brandished a gun during an attempted robbery at Escapades clothing store in the Livery on Sycamore Valley Road shortly after 11 a.m. last Friday.

"I was just heading out to lunch, when I heard screaming," said Jones, who works at Northgate Capital Group. "Then another lady starting screaming, 'Call 9-1-1, they have a gun.'"

He said he saw someone running through the parking lot so he took off in pursuit.

"About halfway there I realized it was a lady so I wasn't going to give her the full 'football' treatment," he said, "but I did hit her pretty hard. I had her in a bear hug."

Mike Naar, part of a management group distributing the Danville Weekly to businesses, was just exiting the jewelry shop next door when he heard the screaming. He quickly followed Jones into the parking lot and, after Jones had the suspect subdued, grabbed her backpack. It contained only the gun, which turned out to be a pellet gun, Naar said.

Police showed up shortly afterward and arrested Kimberly Pavlakis, 48. She was

booked into the Martinez detention facility on charges of armed robbery, burglary and possession of stolen property.

Sharon Lindahl of Danville was working in Escapades alone when the robbery attempt occurred.

"A lady came in. She had on a huge black hat and a big bag," Lindahl recalled. "She said, 'This is a holdup and I have a gun.' She showed me the gun, brought it up with the nose of the gun over the top of the bag. I looked at it and started screaming."

Lindahl, who has worked for Escapades for four years, said she grabbed a high stool from behind the counter, heaved it at the woman, and ran out of the store screaming. "That's when Brent Jones caught her heading down to her car," said Lindahl.

The gun was a pellet gun made to look like a real gun, said Sgt. Ron Bradley of the Danville Police Department. "It was an unusual crime," said Bradley and not only because armed robbery is unusual in Danville. "She said in the interview her motive was to rob a pair of jeans."

Brent Jones, who played tight end for the San Francisco 49ers from 1987-97, has lived in Danville since 1995. "I was just trying to be a helpful resident of the town we love so much," he said. ■

## Caltrans to administer I-680 lane improvements

Plans are moving forward to help I-680 traffic by adding auxiliary lanes between Diablo Road and Bollinger Canyon. The Danville Town Council last month approved of Caltrans administering the project in an effort to secure federal funding.

The project will add extra lanes from onramp to offramp in three different segments: Diablo Road to Sycamore Valley Road; Sycamore Valley to Crow Canyon Road; and Crow Canyon to Bollinger Canyon Road. The project will widen the existing shoulders of the freeway in both directions to form the auxiliary lanes, which will provide a longer distance for traffic to merge when entering the freeway as well as exiting. Another advantage is local traffic can use the freeway between two interchanges without joining the main traffic on the freeway.

"We hope by the end of the year, the project will be awarded," said Paul Maxwell, deputy director of projects for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

The total construction cost for all three segments is estimated at \$62 million, to be funded through a combination of state and local sources. Due to the state's current budget crisis, it has not yet allocated its \$9.1 million share, so agencies have looked elsewhere for funds. The federal Surface Transportation Program could contribute \$5.5 million to add to local fee revenues and Measure C funds, the half-cent sales tax passed in 1998 to fund transportation improvements.

The advantage of having Caltrans admin-

ister the contract is that it has a higher probability of securing federal approvals in time to obtain federal funds under the Surface Transportation Program, according to the staff report. Caltrans would also be responsible for liability associated with the construction.

Councilman Newell Arnerich voiced concerns and questioned the additional cost of having Caltrans administer the contract, noting Caltrans "puts so many people on a project."

"The Authority has a reputation for tracking spending," said Maxwell. He added they are aware of the concerns of the town.

The Contra Costa Transit Authority held meetings in 2003 to address concerns of residents, but nonetheless Caltrans expects problems to arise once the work begins.

"We're looking to hire a public relations firm to handle complaints in Danville," said Mark Zabeneh, division chief from the Office of Project Management of Caltrans District 4, who is a Danville resident.

Soundwalls have already been relocated and extended for the project to mitigate traffic noise.

The segment between Sycamore Valley and Crow Canyon roads is about two miles in length, and has a higher accident rate than the state average, according to the initial project report. The auxiliary lanes will mean an extra lane for vehicles to maneuver around accidents and keep cars from turning off the freeway onto local streets, the report also noted.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

# Teacher of Year—Ron Houston

*Students and colleagues recognize Venture educator as exceptional*

by Casey Reivich

Ron Houston, a teacher at Venture School for independent study, was named the 2005 Teacher of the Year by the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

He is also one of the six semifinalists in the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year competition.

Houston, who lives in Danville with his wife Pam, has been teaching in the district for 34 years and at Venture for 17 years. His son and daughter both attended district schools.

Spend one day with Houston and his students and it is obvious why he has been chosen as teacher of the year. His relationship with his students seems uniquely warm and jovial. His students respect him but also enjoy being around him.

Houston seems less an imposing authority figure and more a mentor and role model. He has made the non-traditional Venture School experience gratifying and rewarding for countless students.

"He's probably the best teacher I've ever had," said Nicole Marshall, an 18-year old student at Venture. "You can have a personal relationship with him."

"We sit and talk with him about life. It's like coming to see an old friend," said Jessica Larocca, a 15-year-old student at Venture.

Colleagues also recognize Houston's talents as an educator. Houston's biggest fan is probably Venture principal, Joan Diamond. It was Diamond who nominated him as teacher of the year. Unbeknown to Houston, Diamond put together a portfolio of testimonies from staff, members of the commu-

nity, parents and administrators, all extolling Houston's virtues as an educator.

"You want to pick the very best you can think of and he's it. I think that he walks on water," said Diamond. "If he wasn't a teacher he could have been a minister. He's one of the most reliable, dear, thoughtful people I have ever known."

Houston understands that every student learns differently, explained Diamond. He goes above and beyond in calibrating curriculum to meet each student's needs. He is able to see their talents and strengths, and he finds ways to challenge and engage them.

Houston is the first Venture teacher to ever be named teacher of the year. Diamond understands why Houston and Venture are a good fit.

"He's most successful at sharing himself and his values. He wants his students to live a good life. He is there for them. He doesn't want anyone to slip through the cracks," said Diamond.

At Venture, Houston wears many hats. He is not only a teacher but he is also involved in coordinating WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and STAR testing. Houston is also the school's outdoor education counselor. Houston is constantly trying to recruit students as camp counselors for outdoor nature camps all over Northern California. He believes the experience of being a camp counselor empowers young adults.

"They learn about independence. Lives have been changed by this outdoor program," said Houston.

Houston spoke proudly about Venture's



CASEY REIVICH

Ron Houston is a teacher, mentor and friend to Jessica Larocca, 15, at Venture School for independent study.

Web design team, which took first prize in December in the annual Rotary-sponsored Web Design Contest. The Venture team was able, under Houston's guidance, to beat eight other teams from comprehensive high schools with bigger populations and better computer facilities.

This summer will be Houston's second year as summer school principal.

Even after 34 years, Houston still loves his job. Everyday he goes home energized, he said.

"You've got to like children. You can't ever lose that. Just being in a classroom should keep you fresh," said Houston.

Houston grew up in Oakland, but his fam-

ily later moved to Moraga. He attended Diablo Valley College for two years, eventually graduating with a political science degree from Cal State Hayward. Houston did not immediately go into teaching.

"I did all sorts of things. I was a dishwasher and a mover. I worked for a printer as a pressman and bookbinder. I also worked in retail and insurance, but I always had teaching in the back of my mind," said Houston.

Houston and his wife Pam married in 1971. Soon afterward, Houston decided to become a teacher. He has taught students at every grade,

► Continued on page 8



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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Living with danger

The dangers of Iraq have come home to us in a new way since Alamo resident Douglas Wood was taken hostage by terrorists demanding that Australia begin to withdraw troops from Iraq. Wood, a 63-year-old Australian, is married to an American and has a home in Alamo although he worked overseas most of his life. We were already aware of the dangers our military face every day. But since Wood's capture, I've heard people voice the sentiment: Why would someone choose to work in such a dangerous place?

Years ago we lived in Saudi Arabia when my husband was business manager for an American construction company building hospitals, schools and residential blocks for the Saudi government. We met different types of expatriates, some young couples like ourselves, overseas temporarily for the adventure and the pay. Others were experienced engineers and construction supervisors who had come straight from Vietnam. One had managed the evacuation from the U.S. Embassy when South Vietnam fell. They liked being part of history and seemed to have thrived on the excitement. But mostly they liked international life and they moved where the work was. They became immune to the dangers.

We were living in Bangkok during the first Gulf War, and the International School was closed for two weeks after terrorist threats targeted American Embassy children. We knew it was dangerous but we stayed because it was our home. A few years later the Thai military staged a coup. A teacher's aide from my daughter's class, a gentle man from New Zealand who was studying Buddhism, was killed by a stray bullet when he went out to buy food for some monks living near a site of protests. But again we didn't feel it was dangerous enough to leave the country.

Bangkok we went to a restaurant to celebrate a Thai holiday and people were setting off fireworks among the tables. I didn't enjoy that dinner—but I didn't leave either. You get used to this lack of regulation and accept it. Also, due to language difficulties and custom differences, you don't always understand what is going on around you so you stop trying to control your environment and go with the flow. It's all part of living overseas—the challenges and continual cultural changes as you adapt your life to fit in with a different society.

After my husband experienced bombings when he was doing business in Johannesburg and in Colombo, he said he thought perhaps he'd had enough of overseas work, that no amount of pay was worth hunkering down on the floor in fear. But the threats passed and he continued to enjoy international business.

It is disturbing to see a man who tended his yard in peaceful Alamo being held captive by terrorists in Iraq. He apparently was part of the overseas work force that goes where the work is—be it Vietnam or the Mideast. Why was he there? It appears he was a professional doing his job and the work was in Iraq. In this changing world, he was very far from the safety of home. ■

“They liked being part of history and seemed to have thrived on the excitement. But mostly they liked international life and they moved where the work was.”

Even in times of peace, developing countries don't have the safety awareness of the U.S. In Jeddah, I saw a snorkeler killed by a speedboat in a bay where boats and swimmers were mingling freely. In

## Teacher

► Continued from page 6

as well as adult education.

In 1988, Houston started teaching at Venture School in San Ramon. Although he has been encouraged throughout the years to enter administration, Houston has always known his talents are in the

classroom.

“Close connection to students is what you're all about,” said Robert Kessler, district superintendent at the May 3 school board meeting where Houston was honored. Kessler added that he respected the career choices Houston has made throughout the years.

School District Board Member Greg Marvel, whose daughter attended Venture, called Houston

the “Quiet Man.” He praised Houston's ability to quietly pull excellence out of all of his students.

Principal Diamond spoke eloquently and movingly about Houston at the school board meeting. She summed it up best: “Ron is a great teacher because he is a great man.”

The Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year will be announced in September. ■

## Teen centers

► Continued from page 5

when it's still at school,” said Erin Sabbatini, teen services coordinator for the Town of Danville. “Having our own site will be really great.”

A school location is easiest for middle school students, said Lacy, because middle schools students are unable to drive. She pointed to the teen center in Davis as one that didn't work.

“Davis built a beautiful one, but youth can't get there,” said Lacy. “Those teen centers fail. If it's on the middle school campus, students don't need transportation.”

The teen centers at Charlotte Wood and Los Cerros will be ready by the beginning of the next school

year. Diablo Vista, due to current construction, will not receive a teen center until fall 2006, said Lacy.

Each classroom will cost approximately \$100,000, not including furniture or construction. Money for the project comes from Danville's childcare fund. When developers build in Danville they are required to pay a childcare fee, said Lacy.

After construction costs are determined, the town can set a budget for furnishing and decorating. Lacy said the town wants students to decide what will be in the teen centers.

In the coming week, Sabbatini plans to distribute a survey to students already participating in the after-school program, asking them what they would like to see in their new teen center. Though nothing is set, Sabbatini said they have some

ideas of what might work.

“One area could be a snack shack, where the kids can go and set up an Xbox. Maybe there will be beanbags, a TV, snack tables, art supplies. Maybe we can incorporate art lessons and sports equipments,” said Sabbatini.

The teen centers will be supervised by college-age adults hired by the town. These supervisors will also act as mentors to the students, said Lacy.

Charlotte Wood offers students an after-school homework hour and peer tutoring. There is also a myriad of sports programs and school clubs. The teen center gives students yet another option, said Budde.

“I think kids need all of the options they can get between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.,” she said. ■

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Middle school teen centers—a ‘hecka’ good idea!**

The town of Danville gets an A+ for its approach to teens and teen centers. Our community is full of busy families and busy kids, and keeping the kids safe is a family’s highest priority. This often involves keeping them occupied and supervised.

Many families in the community have two parents working, just one parent, or parents who are very active. What happens to middle school kids when their folks can’t pick them up from school at 2:45? Some young teens are involved in after-school activities and youth sports but they’re not for everyone and they are not all the time. The town of Danville does not want kids to be attracted to using their time unwisely or dangerously when they should be more interested in playing with their friends or just “hanging out” with them in a safe environment. Middle school kids are the ones who are most often quoted saying, “I’m bored” and “I have nothing to do.” These kids need a safe and fun option, and this is the age when there are the fewest options available to those with no transportation.

Many cities talk about building multi-million dollar teen centers and some in our area have either built them or are in the process of doing so. These standalone centers specialize in either middle school or high school activities. The two groups are not usually mixed, due to the different interests of the age groups and the socialization problems of mixing the groups. As a result, two facilities are required or different days and times are used. There are successful examples of standalone teen centers, but often they fail because they become the favorite hangout of a particular “clique” of kids and others feel uncomfortable there. Often they are the rage for a short period of time and then become passé, much like any other fad among this age group.

Danville has taken another approach that we believe will be much more successful and will stand the test of time. The town has decided to expand its after-school activities by adding modular buildings to be used as teen centers on the Los Cerros, Charlotte Wood and Diablo Vista campuses. The teen centers will be on location at each of the schools where children can “hang out” in a supervised environment when classes are over. Middle-school children will now have the opportunity to stay on campus with their friends and do homework, get involved in activities or simply sit and talk. The facilities will be theirs to plan, and it will truly give them a place to call their own. They will also be available for camps and activities during the summer.

We applaud the town of Danville for a “hecka” good idea!

“The town of Danville does not want kids to be attracted to using their time unwisely or dangerously when they should be more interested in playing with their friends or just ‘hanging out’ with them in a safe environment.”

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Lafayette cemetery has room**

Editor:

After reading your May 6 article, “A Final Resting Place,” I would like to put the following historical data into the record:

1. The Alamo and Lafayette Cemeteries have provided interment for over 150 years.
2. It took a change in the California Health and Safety Code in 1999 to allow public Cemetery Districts to build above ground niches.
3. We have ample in-ground burial sites in our Lafayette cemetery.
4. We had an opportunity some years ago to acquire contiguous land in Alamo but we didn’t have the necessary cash flow and the county wouldn’t advance/loan the district money. We built cremation niches at a cost to the district taxpayers of \$26,000.
5. Since Prop. 13, we no longer are a separate tax line item on the property tax bill. Therefore, it is not, as you stated, an “additional property tax for this service,” rather we are allocated the state-mandated amount of \$.00001437 from paid per hundred tax rate on assessed property value.
6. Had then-San Ramon Mayor Kurt Kinney checked with the funeral directors (when he needed a cemetery for his daughter), he would have been informed of our cemeteries’ availabilities. This might have aided him during this tremendous period of emotional stress.
7. Our district is supported by the very small amount we get from the county, out of all the property taxes paid within our district boundary, the sale of burial rites, the opening and closing fee, niche sales, and resident and non-resident burial fees.
8. Our constituents find the fee charge very inexpensive compared to the private cemeteries.

We are a California Independent Special District, governed under the Public Cemetery Districts Section 9000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code revised, rewritten and adopted into law, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

*Primo E. Facchini*

*Trustee/Chairman, Alamo Lafayette Cemetery District*

**Special ed concerns**

Editor,

I’ve just finished reading your article (May 13) about special ed discussions at the School Board meeting May 3. You were correct—this was an emotional meeting for all of us, district personnel and parents alike. I wanted you to know that although my husband and I did file a Compliance Complaint with the district, we were able to resolve our issues after speaking April 1 with Karen Heilbronner, Assistant Director of Special Education. During this meeting, Heilbronner acknowledged the district owed our son 27 speech/language therapy sessions and has ensured he will be receiving these makeup sessions.

It was only after receiving copies of the logs for our son’s services during our meeting that we found he had not been receiving his services. Even though his Individualized Education Plan clearly stated he was to receive speech/language three times per week, 30 minutes per session, he had been seen by the speech/language therapist once, Sept. 9, for the entire month of September and just twice the first week of October before the therapist resigned Oct. 11. When the district balked at giving him the therapies it had already deemed were necessary, and when our many letters, e-mails and phone calls seemed to fall on deaf ears, we filed our Compliance Complaint.

We HAVE managed to resolve our issues at this juncture with the district, but issues of non-compliance, the lack of qualified and properly trained aides, and the lack of notification to parents when our children are not receiving services are some of the systemic issues this district has not fully addressed. Much still needs to be done to address parents’ concerns.

*Kim Li, Blackhawk*

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. No anonymous letters or “open letters” to other organizations or individuals will be printed. Please provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. Please keep length to 250 words or less. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

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## Parent photographers

Send us a jpeg 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.

## Strike three: You're out!

*Little League umpire says the job takes focus and a calm demeanor*

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

Kate Hart is a working mom and a golfer but during baseball season she can be found out on the field—umpiring for Tassajara Valley Little League.

Tassajara American and Tassajara National have 100 teens doing the job. Hart is one of its few female umpires, and perhaps the only adult female umpire.

"I love to teach and coach, so that's why I do what I do," Hart said. "Umpires usually start at age 13, and it is a tremendous learning experience that teaches organization, responsibility and leadership."

Hart volunteered to be on the TVLL board three years ago when the organization needed someone to fill the Umpire in Chief position. She loves baseball and has been playing softball all her life. She also coached her son in Little League and figured if she was going to train umpires that she had better know everything about it. As a result, she went to the training session held by the District 57 umpires.

"Beginning umpires attend a three-hour 'mechanics' and a seven-hour rules training session," she said. "Additionally, we have four to five hours of classroom training. Second-year umpires attend the rules and mechanics sessions again or take an advanced mechanics class or a rules test."

More experienced umpires take advanced classes including



Kate Hart umpires a Tassajara Little League majors game May 14.

mechanics for the larger baseball diamonds. A few umpires attend weeklong camps such as the Western Region Junior Umpire School. Before the season begins, Hart said, she attends or instructs 35 hours of training.

The Umpire in Chief position is volunteer. Some umpires in the league choose to be paid, Hart said, or they can elect to volunteer.

Umpiring can be very difficult, she noted.

"My worst experience was having to return an apparent winning run to third base because the runner left a base early on a hit in a championship game," she said, explaining it is a Little League rule. "The fans went ballistic, mostly because they did not know the rule and anticipated the runner would be called out rather than returned to third base. Luckily, the next batter drove him in to win the game so the result was the same."



SUE VAUGHAN

## Blue Devils know how to finish

Robbie Vaughan, 16, a Monte Vista sophomore, helps his Tri-Valley Blue Devils Under 16 Midget Ice Hockey team win the Northern California and State championship hockey tournaments. The Blue Devils won the Norcal tournament, beating Santa Clara's Blackhawks, Sacramento's Capital Thunder and San Jose Junior Sharks. Only the top two teams from Northern and Southern California progress to the State Championships, where the Blue Devils got through their first three-game round-robin to finally defeat Huntington Beach in the championship game, 7-3. Along the way, the Devils beat rivals San Jose Junior Sharks and La Jolla. Many of the Tri Valley Blue Devils have been playing hockey since they were 5 or 6.

This time of year the newly trained umpires start to get comfortable in their roles, Hart said.

"They begin the season nervous about the whole process, and go through their usual beginner mistakes for their first two to three games," she said. "All of a sudden they start putting everything together. They begin to gain confidence and really enjoy their role and become hungry to learn more and take on more responsibility."

Hart explained what makes a good umpire: "Focus, a calm

demeanor, humility, desire to learn and improve, the discipline involved in learning and applying rules, the ability to anticipate what might happen, and the understanding that you're to facilitate the game, not dominate it."

The smile on Hart's face seems to reflect the pure enjoyment of her important role as umpire. Being a working mom, umpiring every weekend and carrying a single digit handicap in golf proves that she has mastered another one of the skills of umpiring—organization. ■

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Bicyclist arrested for trespassing

A 34-year-old man was arrested for trespassing at a bank parking lot in the 100 block of Diablo Road at 4:45 p.m. May 11. The man had been asked to leave the bank parking lot several times before, according to the police report. He allegedly rides his bike around the parking lot doing tricks on his bike and also repeatedly sets off the bell for the teller, police said. Police said when they were called May 11, a confrontation ensued and the bicyclist complained of Danville's lack of bike parks where people can do bike tricks. Upon arrest, he gave the police a false name and resisted being arrested, police said.

### Man, 18, arrested for possession of cocaine for sale

An 18-year-old man was arrested for possessing cocaine for sale in the first block of Cerro Court at 12:59 a.m. May 13. A resident saw two people sitting in a car throwing what seemed to be beer cans out the car window, according to the police report, and called the police. Upon arrival, police asked the two passengers to step out of the car. When the 18-year-old man got out of the car, a bag dropped from his person, said police, which turned out to contain three plastic bags of cocaine, each with its weight marked on it. Only the 18-year-old man in possession of the cocaine was arrested, according to reports.

## POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

### Arrests:

- A 34-year-old man in the 100 block of Diablo Road at 4:45 p.m. May 11 for trespassing.
- A 21-year-old man on Cloverbrook Drive and Rassani Drive at 4:29 a.m. May 12 for driving under the influence.
- A 47-year-old woman, who had a warrant to be arrested, in the 800 block of Camino Ramon at 8:37 p.m. May 12.
- A 24-year-old woman in the 700 block of St. George Road at 10:42 p.m. May 12 for driving under the influence.
- A 40-year-old man on Podva Road and San Ramon Valley Boulevard at 12:40 a.m. May 13 for driving under the influence.
- An 18-year-old man in the first block of Cerro Court at 12:59 a.m. on May 13 for possession of narcotics for sale.
- A 48-year-old woman in the 400 block of Sycamore Valley Road West at 11:21 a.m. May 13 for armed robbery.
- A juvenile male on Brookside Drive and Pinecone Drive at 10:30 p.m. May 13 for a misdemeanor.
- A 43-year-old man on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Lane at 12:33 a.m. May 15 for driving under the influence.
- A male juvenile on Danville Boulevard and El Cerro Boulevard at 2:28 a.m. May 15 for failure to obey traffic officer.

### May 9

- Malicious mischief: 1
- Accident-property damage: 1
- Civil matter: 1
- Suspicious circumstances: 3
- Hit & run, misdemeanor: 1
- Burglary, auto: 1

### May 10

- Malicious mischief: 4
- Stolen vehicle: 1
- Disturbing the peace: 2
- Driving with a suspended, revoked license: 1
- Burglary, auto: 1
- Accident-injury: 1
- Missing person, adult: 1

### May 11

- Burglary, commercial: 2
- Accident, property damage: 2
- Stolen vehicle: 1
- Hit & run, misdemeanor: 2
- Battery, misdemeanor: 1
- 11:18 a.m. on El Dorado Avenue.
- Trespassing: 1
- Missing runaway juvenile: 1
- Driving under the influence: 2
- Malicious phone calls: 2
- Burglary, auto: 1
- Warrant arrest: 1

### May 13

- Driving under the influence: 1
- Possession of narcotics for sale: 1
- Malicious mischief: 1
- Suspicious circumstances: 1
- Accident-property damage: 1
- Illegal entry: 1
- Armed robbery: 1
- Accident-property damage: 1
- Misdemeanor: 1

### May 14

- Accident-property damage: 1
- Uncontrollable juvenile: 1
- Burglary, commercial: 1
- Missing runaway juvenile: 1
- Misdemeanor: 1
- Unlicensed driver: 1

### May 15

- Driving under the influence: 1
- Hit & run, misdemeanor: 2
- Failure to obey traffic officer: 1
- Disturbing the peace, domestic: 1
- Suspicious circumstances: 1
- Abandoned vehicle: 1

The Office of Contra Costa County Sheriff Department's Valley Station made the following information available.

### Alamo

#### May 9

- Grand theft from vehicle on Cedar Lane
- Grand theft from vehicle on Sunnybrook Road

#### May 10

- Grand theft from vehicle on Alamo Way

#### May 12

- Petty theft on La Sonoma Way

- Malicious mischief on Alamo Country Court

#### May 13

- Burglary, auto at Alama Plaza

#### May 15

- Disturbance on Granite Court

### Blackhawk

#### May 9

- Malicious mischief on Quail Run Court

## WEDDINGS



### JulieAnn Lockwood and Victor Soltero

Victor Soltero and JulieAnn Lockwood, both of Danville, were married at a private ceremony in Martinez on Friday, March 25. Victor is the son of Sen. and Mrs. Victor Soltero of Tucson, Ariz., and JulieAnn is the daughter of Donald A. Cilano of Rochester, N.Y. Victor attended the University of Arizona and is a customer business manager with Unilever Corp. in Pleasanton. JulieAnn attended Rochester Institute of Technology and is the Internet manager with Mercedes Benz in Walnut Creek. The couple honeymooned in Maui and Oahu in Hawaii.

## OBITUARIES

### Cindy Collins

A special memorial service will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, for Cindy Collins, who was Golden View Elementary School principal from 1998 to 2005. She died in March after a three-year battle with cancer.

Collins, 51, also taught third grade at Rancho Romero Elementary School in Alamo for 10 years. She joined the San Ramon Valley Unified School District as a part-time Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) teacher.

The service will take place at Golden View School, 5025 Canyon Crest Drive, San Ramon. Families and children are invited to come to celebrate her life and participate in the dedication of a fountain in her honor.

**Deaths, Weddings and Births** are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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Docent Patty Dobbin tells Anne and Jack Appel of Alamo the history of Elliott's. The Appels, who moved here 19 years ago from a town in New Jersey called Denville, said they'd been meaning to take the downtown tour since last year.

# STEP INTO

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

**B**oys beating the summer heat in an old swimming hole in the San Ramon Creek. Potluck socials every Saturday night in front of the Grange on Front Street. Bucolic scenes of historic Danville came to life last Saturday morning as docent Patty Dobbin led a downtown walking tour sponsored by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

The tour began at the museum at the old Southern Pacific Railroad depot on Railroad Avenue, which was erected when the Martinez line was extended south to San Ramon.

"The farmers were delighted," said Dobbin, who has been a docent at the museum for seven years. "They finally could ship their crops. The first train came to town in 1891, on June 7."

The old depot was originally further down the street, where Andronico's is now, Dobbin said, but it was moved in 1996 when the museum bought and renovated it in a huge community effort. Because it is registered as a state Historic Landmark, the outside had to be restored to its original state of Victorian Stick architectural style using gold and brown colors.

"The train originally went to San Ramon, where Costco is, and the train was put on a turnstile and turned around. San Ramon was the end of the line although eventually it went on to Pleasanton," Dobbin said. It ended in the north at Avon, now Martinez, after stops in Walnut Creek, Concord and Pleasant Hill. The ride to Martinez cost \$1.35.

"In Martinez, the crops were put onto flatbed boats and ferried to San Francisco," Dobbin explained. "Some of the hay went all the way to the hay market in London."

The walking tour headed east on Prospect Avenue, which Dobbin said was then merely a winding footpath known as Tiger Alley. "We're

not sure why," said Dobbin. "Maybe because it curved like a tiger's tail. Or maybe because it was lined with saloons."



This Gothic Revival at 169 Front St., built in 1866, is the oldest residential building in downtown Danville.

The group stopped at the corner of Prospect and Hartz Avenue across from the Veteran's Hall. It was built in 1925 to honor veterans of World War I, and it also served as the town library for 40 years, Dobbin informed the group. She drew everyone's attention across the street to Starbucks, which was the site of the Bank of Italy. Dobbin showed a photograph of the solid old-fashioned bank building, which was torn down in 1959.

Across from the old bank site on Hartz, Dobbin pointed out the site of Acres market from 1925. "You could call in and order groceries," she said, explaining it was difficult for folks to leave their farms to come in and shop.

Next to that was the old telephone exchange where, beginning in 1925, Viola Root was the operator with her board to plug in telephone calls. "Everything you said, Viola knew," said Dobbin.

The next stop was Elliott's Since 1907, which was opened first at the north end of Front Street and moved to its present location in 1912. "During prohibition, it was an 'ice cream parlor,'" reported Dobbin.

The tour continued up Hartz to learn that Meenar's restaurant was once McDonald's Pharmacy and the family lived upstairs. The Uptown Café is in the oldest commercial building in town continually used for businesses, Dobbin said, built in 1921 and at one time housed Pynn's Drygoods Store.

The group crossed Hartz at Diablo Road, originally called County Road. Back up Hartz in front of the Rising Loafer, Dobbin showed photos of the old firehouse situated there for 50 years. "It was built in 1925," she said. "The early firemen were volunteers and the siren was so loud it could be heard in Alamo."

The tour stopped around the corner on Prospect at Ella J's and learned it was the original Lawrence's Meat Market. Further down the street the group stopped to admire the boutique adjacent to Father Nature's Shed, built in the Victorian Folk Style. "It was originally



This old Italianate Victorian built in 1891 and once home to lawyers in town.

behind where the Veterans Hall now stands the house.

The walk down Front Street when gold miners came to the Sierra. "They came from the Spanish rancho. Stone families came.

"The original residence is long ago," she said. "They found it. When they excavated, there were lots of seashells from the Miwok Indians. In the game, they had access to the sea.

When the Spanish expedition passing through



Docent Patty Dobbin and members of the Danville Grange taken in

# TO THE PAST

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON DOWNTOWN TOUR



ian on School Street at the corner of Hartz Avenue was had a honeymoon suite on the second story used by new-

teran's Building is but they moved it. That shows es were then," Dobbin said.

front Street evoked the very early days of the town, ame to the area to settle after making their fortunes came from all over the world and bought property chers," Dobbin said, adding that the Jones and the before the Gold Rush.

cents were of course the Indians, some 5,000 years ere was a big Indian establishment by the Oak Tree. d for the road they found lots of artifacts. And there s, because this area was once under sea. They were very peaceful. They hunted, there was a lot of ss to water and built their homes from tulle reeds." arrived, they camped along the creek, with the first through in 1772. "This changed the lives of the

Indians," Dobbin said. Huge Mexican Land Grants were given in the early 1800s, with the Pacheco ranch reaching from Pacheco in the north to Crow Canyon Road, and this land was sold to the early pioneer families, who raised wheat.

"The Inman brothers (Daniel and Andrew) came from Tennessee," Dobbin said. "They established a blacksmith shop in 1856." Daniel had bought 400 acres in the early 1850s, which formed the site of Danville. When it came time for the settlement to have a name, the residents wanted to name it Inmanville, so the story goes, but they settled on Danville. Another version of the story says the town was named after Danville in Kentucky, the hometown of Andrew's mother-in-law.

The Gothic-Revival Cohen-Vecki house, at 169 Front St., is the oldest residential building in downtown Danville, built in 1866, Dobbin said. "It sat further back so wagons could turn around in front," she said. Dr. Victor John Vecki practiced dentistry in the house for many years.

Down the street the group stopped by a huge redwood tree to hear about the Presbyterian Church that was on the site, a Gothic-Revival style building with a steeple that could be seen for miles around. The church was built in 1875 and burned down in 1932. The tree has a plaque on it noting it was planted in 1856.

"This is historic land," Dobbin said as the group approached the Village Theatre. It was the old Grange Hall, which served as the center of town life for the farmers. "Everyone would gather for potluck dinners every Saturday night," Dobbin said. Grange members were also politically powerful, responsible for tackling community problems. The Grange was built in 1874, and in 1912-14 the building was enlarged, with the original portion raised to become the second floor. Behind the theater, on the south side of its parking lot, is the site of the first school, a one-room schoolhouse dating from 1858.

The tour proceeded through the parking lot to Church Street to admire the old Queen Anne style house at the corner of Hartz, which is now the Amber restaurant. "A second Queen Anne was used as the high school building," Dobbin said. "It had 30 students, mostly women because the men were needed on the ranches. There were five women in the first graduating class." San Ramon Valley High School was built in its present location in 1917 although none of the original building remains.

Faz was the location of the livery. "It was \$1.50 per day to rent a horse and buggy or a wagon," said Dobbin. "Salesmen would come in from the train, rent a wagon and drive around the valley and sell their wares."

The old Italianate Victorian on the corner of School Street and Hartz is the Shuey-Povda House. It was built in 1891 and is the oldest two-story residence in town. "The second story had a honeymoon suite where newlyweds in town could stay," Dobbin told the group. "The Povdas bought it in 1939 as their 'city house.' Their 'country house' was three miles away in the middle of the Mercantile."

Further up Hartz, the tour stopped at La Ultima, originally the town home of John Hartz, who developed much of the downtown. He came



The old Danville Hotel, shown from the northside, now houses Lisa B's restaurant.

to California from Germany in 1865 at the age of 18 with the proverbial \$10 in his pocket and went to work as a farmer. He returned to his hometown in Germany to marry Catharina, and they returned to Danville and raised three children.

"Every Thursday, John had to go away while she cleaned. He'd go to Elliot's," said Dobbin. "After she cleaned, she would sit on the porch and smoke a cigar."

Hartz sold 8.65 acres of land to Southern Pacific for the Danville train station, and with the coming of the railroad he also sold 20 lots downtown. These two events caused the shift of the town from Front Street to Railroad Avenue and Hartz, named in honor of John Hartz.

The next stop was the home of Emma Dodge, who was postmaster from 1913-33. Her husband was blind but he would pick up the mail from the railroad station and bring it home for Dodge to distribute, Dobbin said. Emma lived in the house for 37 years.

Dobbin also showed old photographs of the Toonerville Trolley, an electric railway that ran down Hartz Street from 1914-24, on its route from Walnut Creek to Diablo and back to Walnut Creek.

Lisa B's restaurant now inhabits the old Danville Hotel, originally called the Railroad Hotel. Dobbin walked the group into the courtyard and had them look at the side of the building. "Everything that is painted red was the original Danville Hotel, although it originally faced the other direction and was on Railroad Avenue," she said. It was moved closer to Hartz and turned around in 1927 because by then Hartz Avenue was the main street in town.

A businessman named Russ Glenn owned the property around the hotel in the 1950s. "When a movie company was filming a movie in the area, he hired a stage designer to revitalize the area," said Dobbin. "All the little buildings were done by a Hollywood set designer." The folks on the tour pointed out the false fronts to each other and said they'd always wondered the story behind the strange Old West setting.

The tour concluded back at the Depot and everyone returned to 2005, feeling enriched by the walk through the past. As Dobbin said about learning about the town's history: "That's what gives me a sense of place." ■

### Bringing history to life

**What:** Historic walking tour of downtown Danville

**Who:** Docents from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley

**When:** 10-11 a.m., Saturdays, June 11, July 9, Aug. 12, Sept. 10,

**Where:** Meet at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave.

**Other:** Tours of historic downtown can also be arranged for groups at other times, as well as tours of the Alamo Cemetery, 130 El Portal. A public tour of the cemetery will take place in the fall.

**Information:** 837-3750



Dobbin shows a photo of the Danville the late 1800s.

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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Art

### Danville Fine Arts Faire

The Danville Chamber of Commerce will hold its 14th annual arts fair from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, June 18-19, on Hartz Avenue, Danville. It will feature more than 200 artists and Italian street painters who will transform the streets with temporary art. The fair also will offer music and food. New this year is the Open Aire Gallery on Hartz Avenue, between School Street and Hartz Way, offering champagne, Dixieland jazz and art, plus the Street of Flowers on Prospect Street, featuring flowers, arches, fountains and topiaries. A free shuttle service will operate Sunday at the Sycamore Valley Park N Ride. Call 837-4400 or visit [www.mlproductions.com](http://www.mlproductions.com).

## Author Visits

### Authors at Rakestraw

Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., will host Les Standiford, author of "Meet You in Hell," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 25. Call 837-7337.

## Civic Meetings

### Budget Session Meeting

The last of four planned town budget sessions will be held at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 24, at 510 La Gonda Way.

### Danville Planning Commission

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

### Hap Magee Ranch Park Meeting

The Joint Planning and Operations Committee for Hap Magee Ranch Park will meet at 5 p.m., Thursday, May 26, at 1029 La Gonda Way.

## Clubs

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

The organization meets at 7 p.m., every second Thursday at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740.

## Concerts

### Blackhawk Chorus

The Blackhawk Chorus, under the direction of Diane Giffether, will perform two concerts featuring the works of Cole Porter and George Gershwin.

The chorus will perform at 7 p.m., Friday, May 20, at the St. Isidore Church Community Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville, as a benefit for St. Isidore School. Suggested donations are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. The chorus will also appear at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 22, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The Mary Fettig Quartet will perform with them. Regular admission is \$16, youths \$8. For tickets, visit [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org) or call 943-7469.

## Events

### Ballroom dancing

Stead Motors Mercedes Benz will present "An Elegant Evening of America's Best Music" from 7-11 p.m., Saturday, May 21, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. The program features Rex Allen's Swing Express with dance lessons and demonstration by Adrian Flores. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Cost is \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door. For reservations, visit [www.kalbradio.com](http://www.kalbradio.com) or call (415) 538-5653.

### Garden Walk

The Contra Costa Master Gardeners Association is holding a garden walk of six neighborhood gardens, including some in Danville and Alamo from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, May 21. The event includes education talks, plants for sale, master gardeners available for questions, and light refreshments. Tickets are \$15. Call Cami at 646-6540 for tickets, maps and information.

### Memorial Day Ceremony

The Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley invites the community to its 14th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and the dedication of the new "All Wars Memorial," at 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 30, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Road. The program will feature patriotic music, the presentation of Colors, and remarks by Medal of Honor recipient SGM Jon Cavaiani, U.S. Army (Ret.). Bring chairs, blankets and food. Call Norm Mahalich at (530) 642-2030.

### Muscle Car, Hot Rod and Art Fair

Hats Off America, in conjunction with the Biletnikoff Foundation, presents its second annual Muscle Car, Hot Rod and Art Fair from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22, at Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon, San Ramon. The fair is free to the public and proceeds will benefit families of soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan and children suffering from substance abuse and domestic violence. In addition to cars and art, the event features live bands, children's activities, and a beer and wine garden.

## Kids & Teens

### Summer internships

Alamo Parks and Recreation offers summer volunteer internships for youths in grades 11-12, providing experience in planning and running recreational activities at Hap Magee Ranch Park. Internships are unpaid and have flexible hours. Call Karla at 886-4716.

### YMCA summer camps

Mt. Diablo Region YMCA offers weekly summer camp sessions from June 20-Aug. 26. Camps run half days for children 3-6 and full days for grades 1-9. Programs include field trips, swimming, arts, outdoor ed, games and teambuilding. Specialty camps range from Dude Ranch to Wizardry. The Y also has resident camps for grades 3-8 and a variety of teen camps. Call San Ramon Valley YMCA at 831-1100, or visit [www.mdrymca.org](http://www.mdrymca.org).

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Film Fest fun

Debi Derryberry, voice of Jimmy Neutron, will be a celebrity guest at the Danville International Children's Film Festival taking place tonight through Sunday. Derryberry will be answering questions after the Saturday screening of "Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius" and Sunday's "Jimmy Neutron, A Beautiful Mine." They are both scheduled between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Call the box office at 314-3463 or visit [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com) for tickets.

## Miscellaneous Sports

### Borges Ranch hike

The Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation is leading a wildflower walk at Borges Ranch from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 21. The distance is three-four miles with 400 foot elevation gain. Meet at Shell Ridge Open Space, Old Borges Ranch, southwest off Castle Rock Road. Rain or excessively muddy trails cancels hike. No reservation required. For information, call 934-1161 or email [oldjer30@aol.com](mailto:oldjer30@aol.com).

## On Stage

### Danville Ballet

The Danville Ballet Company with students from Ballet and Theatre Arts presents "Spring Performance 2005" at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 27-28 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. More than 50 preprofessional dancers will perform the Dream Sequence from Don Quixote and a two-act version of the lighthearted Coppelia. Guest artists Carmichael Blankenship and Lewis Smith will also appear. Call the Civic Arts box office at 931-3444 for tickets.

## Seniors

### Cookies, coffee and conversation

Seniors are invited to come for cookies, coffee and conversation from 9-11 a.m., Tuesday, May 31, at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Hall lounge, 400 Hartz Ave. Cost is \$2-\$3. Call 314-3400 to sign up.

### Danville Primetime

Danville Primetime meets from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Danville Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado. Arts and crafts, fellowship Bible study, and lunch are available. Call 837-5525.

### Danville Senior Citizens Club

The club meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. Membership is just \$9 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

### Boys Water Polo

The Danville Boulevard Boys Water Polo Program, open to boys ages 9-18, is now accepting registration for summer. The sport is like a combination of soccer and basketball played in water. No polo experience required, but good swimming skills are necessary. Practices are at San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville, and Soda Aquatic Center, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga. For schedules, fees and other information visit [www.dbpolo.com](http://www.dbpolo.com).

### Swim classes

Summer swim classes from and age 3 and up begin June 20 at Monte Vista Community Pool, 3131 Stone Valley Road, and San Ramon Valley High School Pool, at Love Lane and San Ramon Valley Blvd. The Town of Danville offers two-week group lessons, and one-week private lessons, all 30 minutes, with costs ranging from \$45-\$60. Drop-in parent/child classes for ages 6 months-3 years are held 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Wednesdays at Monte Vista Community Pool beginning June 22 with fees of \$10-\$12. Call 314-3400.

## Support Groups

### Danville TOPS

The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m. every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870

### Fibromyalgia/Pain

The San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Support Group meets from 7-9 p.m. every other Monday in Danville. Call Denise for location and information at 837-0510.

## Volunteering

### Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association of Northern California, East Bay branch, seeks volunteers to facilitate support groups, staff the help line and perform a variety of office support at its office in Lafayette. Call (800) 660-1993.

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## Support for her passion

by Casey Reivich

### 16-year-old Karissa Barney headed for premier arts school

**K**arissa Barney is ready to get serious about her art.

Barney, a 16-year-old sophomore at San Ramon Valley High School, has been accepted to the premier independent residential arts secondary school in the nation, Walnut Hill Arts.

Located in Walnut Hill, Mass., the school was founded in 1893 by two Wellesley College graduates. Originally intended as an all-girls boarding school, it became an arts school in the 1970s.

The Walnut Hill Arts application process was much like applying to a college, Barney said. First she had to take the SSATs. Her written application also required four to five teacher recommendations that spoke about her academically and artistically. Finally, she had to fly out to Massachusetts to audition. At her audition, Barney performed a monologue and a song.

"The theater director looks for passion, commitment, discipline, a moment - an emotional reality that happens for you," said Roger Shoemaker, dean for the arts at Walnut Hill.

With only 280 students, competition to get into the school is fierce.

Shoemaker explained that Barney being accepted to the theater program as a junior and as a girl is exceptional.

"Theater for girls is tough," he said. "For a girl to get into theater, it's basically one out of four."

Ever since a young age, Barney's passion has been musical theater. It was originally her older brother who introduced her to musical theater, she said. When she saw "Annie Get Your Gun" on Broadway, the deal was sealed. Barney's present schedule shows her dedication to improving in dancing, singing and acting.

In addition to going to school, Barney rehearses every day at Dance Fusion for her competition dance team. She also regularly takes voice lessons. And she recently performed in the Diablo Light Opera Company's production of "West Side Story," which closed last weekend. On weekdays she often doesn't get home until 11 p.m.

But even with all of this, Barney wants to focus more on musical theater. An arts school, she

explained, will allow her to dedicate herself entirely to her passion.

"It was really hard for me. With school and the show I was having a hard time," she said. "Here I'm running from the studio to school. There it will all be in once place."

Walnut Hill Arts is not for dabblers. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Barney will receive a general high school education with regular classes like math and English. After 2 p.m., however, she will be immersed in dance, singing and acting classes.

"She'll meet a whole bunch of kids who have a similar way of looking at the world," said Shoemaker. "We will support her passion to be an actor. She will be immersed in a community where everyone wants to be the best they can be."

Barney is not intimidated at all by being a small fish in a big pond. In fact, she is looking forward to it.

"It will be good for me. I want to study more seriously and be around people who are serious about the same things I am," she said.

Before Barney begins Walnut Hill in the fall, she will continue honing her craft and having fun at the famed performing arts camp Stagedoor Manor this summer in the Catskill mountains.

Barney is going to miss her family and friends, but more than anything, she is looking forward to the new experience.

And what about those cold Massachusetts winters?

"I'm ready for it," she said. "I love the snow. Bring it on." ■



Danville teen Karissa Barney was accepted to the nation's elite private arts high school; (inset) she appears as Teresita in the recent Diablo Light Opera Company production of "West Side Story."



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## AT THE MOVIES

**CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill:** 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)  
**Century 14 Walnut Creek:** 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)  
**Blackhawk Movie 7:** 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)  
**Crow Canyon 6:** 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)  
**Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater:** 5000 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (560-9600)  
**Vine Cinema:** Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)  
**Internet address:** For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at  
<http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/>

**Note:** Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

<b>Crash (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Mon noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:55 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Sat 12:30, 4, 7:30, 10 p.m., Sun-Tue 12:30, 4, 7:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 10:10 a.m., 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35 p.m.
<b>Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (PG)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Sat 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.; Sun-Tue 1:20, 4:10, 7:20 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tue noon, 2:45p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 11:25 a.m., 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10 p.m.
<b>House of Wax (R)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tue 9:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 10:05 a.m., 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50 p.m.
<b>Kicking &amp; Screaming (PG)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tue 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:35 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Sat 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 p.m.; Sun-Tue 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Sun 9:05, 10, 11:20 a.m., 12:20, 2, 2:55, 4:25, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.; Mon-Tue 10, 11:20 a.m., 12:20, 2, 2:55, 4:25, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.
<b>Kingdom Of Heaven (R)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tue 12:50, 4, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Mon 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:35, 3, 6:30, 7:15, 9:50, 10:35 p.m.; Tue 11, 11:30 a.m., 3, 6:30, 7:15, 9:50 p.m.
<b>Kung Fu Hustle (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Mon 12:05, 9:50 p.m.
<b>Ladies In Lavender (PG-13)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Mon 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10 p.m.
<b>Layer Cake (R)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Mon 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m.
<b>Millions (PG)</b>	<b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Mon 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 p.m.
<b>Mindhunters (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 10:20 a.m., 1, 3:40, 6:20, 9 p.m.
<b>Monster-in-Law (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tue 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:25 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Sat 11:50, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:05 p.m.; Sun-Tue 11:50 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:20 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Sun 9:20, 11:10, 11:50 a.m., 1:50, 2:30, 4:35, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 10, 10:30 p.m.; Mon-Tue 11:10, 11:50 a.m., 1:50, 2:30, 4:35, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 10, 10:30 a.m.
<b>Sahara (PG-13)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35 p.m.
<b>Star Wars Episode III (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Sat 12:30, 1, 3:45, 4:15, 7, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45 p.m.; Sun 12:30, 1, 4:15, 7, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45 p.m.; Mon-Tue 12:30, 1, 3:45, 4:15, 7, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45 p.m. <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tue 12:05, 3:25, 6:45, 10:05 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Sat 9, 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 3, 3:30, 6:30, 7, 9:45, 10:15 p.m.; Sun 9, 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 3, 3:30, 6:30, 7 p.m.; Mon-Tue 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 3, 3:30, 6:30, 7 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11, 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 3, 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45, 11:15, 11:45 p.m., 12:15 a.m.; Sat 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11 a.m., 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 3, 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45 p.m.; Mon-Tue 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11, 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 3, 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45 p.m. <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri 9:15 a.m., 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 9:15 a.m., 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.; Mon-Tue 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10 p.m.; Sat-Sun 10:15 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10 p.m.; Mon-Tue 2, 5, 8 p.m.
<b>The Interpreter (PG-13)</b>	<b>Blackhawk Movies 7:</b> Fri-Tue 1:30, 4:25, 7:40, 10:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Sat 6:50, 9:50 p.m.; Sun-Tue 6:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 10:55 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 10:05 p.m.; Sat-Sun 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05 p.m.; Mon-Tue 2:15, 5:10, 7:45 p.m.
<b>The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (PG)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20: ( Sneak Preview)</b> Sat 10 a.m.
<b>Unleashed (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tue 11:05 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40 p.m.

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## Suburban housewives on the move

The Danville Suburban Housewives in their “obnoxiously green” hats begin their weekly Friday morning workout on the Iron Horse Trail, in preparation for the 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in San Francisco on July 9-10. They’re determined, they’re organized, and they’re fun as they talk, talk, talk on the trail while getting into shape. “It’s amazing how much 14 women can talk,” said Caroline White, the captain. She started the group with some friends, then their friends joined until they had 14 enthusiastic women, including Christa Bakarich, Cathy Dunn, Terry Griffin, Keven

Jaros, Cheri Kirschenheuter, Kristin Munk, Melinda Malin, Shaunna Mattson, Colleen Negi, Cindy Schmid, Candice Stone, Sue Turley, Teresa Wells and Caroline White. Each member has to raise \$1,800 to join the walk but this group has a goal of raising \$25,200, which will go toward breast cancer awareness and education; screening and diagnosis, treatment, support services; and scientific research. To help them raise their goal, donate online at [www.avonwalk.org](http://www.avonwalk.org) or send a check payable to “Avon Walk for Breast Cancer” to Caroline White, P.O. Box 72, Danville 94526. ■

### A movie review of what's **READY TO RENT** by Joe Ramirez

**Team America: World Police**  
Paramount Home Video VHS & DVD  
1 hr 38 mins  
Directors: Trey Parker and Matt Stone

Matt Stone and Trey Parker’s “Team America: World Police” is like spying on your adolescents while they play with action figures: alternately crude, amusing and weird all at the same time, only with a \$20 million-plus budget. Not to say that this is a bad thing because it’s actually kind of liberating to see two of America’s most over-hyped and misunderstood “satirists” poke fun at action films. This turns out to have more value than any of the fascist fantasy movies of Bruckheimer and Schwarzenegger (“The Rock” and “Armageddon” and “Commando”) with a lot of jingoistic “Top Gun” sentiments thrown in. “Team America” cheerfully exploits these films by infusing their style but playing it out with marionettes, wires akimbo and visible, succeeding at being very funny but also failing as a satire, because Stone and Parker mistake mockery for parody.

“Team America” starts with a bang: A tradeoff of nuclear arms among terrorists along the Champs Elysées is noticed by a wide-eyed (puppet) girl, who is then threatened until America’s special defense unit, Team America, shows up to save the day, while annihilating most of Paris in the process. What almost passes as brilliance in these beginning scenes is its deadpan delivery of action as played out by, well, puppets (or, to be more precise for purists out there, marionettes), that have this eerie doe-eyed expression and heads that are anatomically too big for their bodies. Their jilted and flaccid movements against the beautifully constructed miniatures (courtesy of Production Designer Jim Dultz) paint a strangely surreal picture that is the entire joke of the film. I cannot say the joke ever wears itself out but it definitely does require more imagination.



The film descends into a type of camp that only Stone and Parker can deliver. They recruit reluctant actor Gary Johnston to infiltrate the terrorists (he is starring in a “Rent”-like musical whose closing number would shame “The Producers”’ “Springtime for Hitler”) and the team goes to work. The best bits of the film involve throw-away gags such as the team’s “secret” hideout in the faces of Mount Rushmore; Gary’s hitting bottom and vomiting for an uncomfortably long time; the notorious marionette sex scene that earned the film an NC17 rating before it was trimmed down from two minutes (!) to 30 seconds, and Kim Jong Il’s marionette delicately singing “I’m Lonely” while he tours his torture palace.

Where “Team America” does fail is in its supposed satire that smacks heavily of peppy nihilism. There is no figure and no situation that Stone and Parker leave unscathed yet this left me curiously empty. For example, later in the film, actors that publicly flaunt their political causes (Sean Penn, Matt Damon and George Clooney to name a few) are viciously attacked with no real service to the plot and, since we are watching a mockery of a genre, the whole experience becomes a cheap shot that does get very old. I don’t mind it in small doses, such as on “South Park,” but for 90 minutes it becomes a type of bullying that stops the film from being amusing and escorts it into the realm of grating.

—Joe Ramirez

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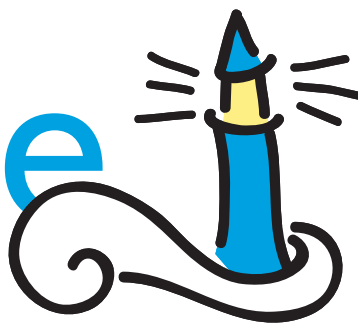
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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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**Danville's Women's Networking Event**  
You are cordially invited to A Special Evening for Women  
**June 9, 2005**  
**5:30 pm, Thursday Evening**  
**at Pascal French Oven**  
**155 Railroad Avenue**  
**Danville, CA 94526**  
An excellent opportunity for introductions and networking your business. Special guest speakers to help your business grow.  
Guests are welcome but space is limited, please RSVP  
By Friday, June 3, 2005  
**Contact: Karen Ganguet @ Paychex**  
**925-242-0700, ext. 30468**  
**kganguet@paychex.com or**  
**Christine Hernandez @ Union Bank of California**  
**925-314-1251**  
**christine.hernandez@uboc.com**

**Diablo Singles Dance Club Monthly Dance**  
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**Floral Design**

**FREE College Funding Workshop!**  
Danville Library, Weds. 5/18, 6:45(Sharp)-8:00pm. Limited seating-students welcome with accompanying adult. Reserve NOW! Best Way to Go. 925-360-1185

**How to Break in to the Fields of Acting & Modeling**  
Actress/Model  
Kathleen Furey  
will discuss how to achieve success and what to look out for in the show business industry.  
**Saturday, May 21,**  
**11am-12:30**  
**ICV Digital Media**  
**3908 Valley Ave**  
Admission is FREE to the public with advanced reservations.  
**Call 866-328-5583 or**  
**510-612-0708**  
\* Seating is limited \*

**JOIN THE DANVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Interested in joining the DANVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Find our more information by attending the Prospective Member Orientation  
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**5:30-6:45 PM**  
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Thank you!

**The Blackhawk Art Gallery**  
June 11, 2005, 5PM to 8 PM

The Blackhawk Art Gallery, 3628 Blackhawk Plaza Circle in Danville, invites the public to enjoy a free open house artist reception featuring the art of painter Diana Smith and the sculpting work of Jason Griego, as well as other local fine artists. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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**Danville, 988 Richard Ln, 5/21, 8-2:30**

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**Saturday, June 4, 8am-4pm**  
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The Alamo Women's Club Federated is holding a rummage sale  
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It is also accepting donations of items on Thursday morning after 9 a.m.

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**Pleasanton, 1890 Cortez Ct, Sat May 21, 8-12, No Early Birds!**

**Pleasanton, 2645 Becard Ct, 5/21, 8-2**

**Pleasanton, 286 Kottinger Dr, 5/21 9-1**

**Pleasanton, 3553 Ballantyne Dr., May 21 8-2**

**Pleasanton, 4284 Jensen St., 5/21 & 22, 8-4**  
Moving Sale. Furniture, household items, bicycles, & large-screen TV.

**Pleasanton, 4439 Fairlands Dr., May 27, 28, 29, 8am-6pm**

**Pleasanton, 5967 Via Del Cielo, 5/21, 8-12**

**Pleasanton, Stoneridge Neighborhood 5/21 & 22 7:30-1**

**Westside Danville Neighborhood Garage Sale**  
**Saturday, May 21, 8-12**  
The following streets will participate:  
Sonora, Prospect Ave, El Dorado Ave, Estates, Bonanza, Mariposa, Mary Ct., William Ct., Quinterra, Glendora, Highland. Items for sale will include household items, tools, toys, furniture, plants, etc.

## Danville

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\$30 Call 925-837-0437

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COMFORT & GOOD LOOKS FOR THE PATIO  
6 FOLDING HARDWOOD ARMCHAIRS  
PRISTINE CONDITION \$40 EACH OR  
ALL 6 \$180  
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**Remodeling - \$350.00**

**Rick's Picks**  
in downtown Danville. Italian leather sofas, loveseats & chairs. Limited quantities, Fantastic prices.

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**SLEEPER SOFA**  
Excellent Quality!

**Top Grain Leather, Ultra Soft Burgundy Sleeper Sofa with Upgraded Mattress.**  
Approximately 80"X 38" \$800

**Location - Danville. To view, call 408-342-7040, M-F 8-5**

**SOFA**  
For sale: 90" formal sofa white brocade, 3 cushions, mahogany wood trim. Call 837-0510.

**TV Media Cabinet - \$350.00**

**Whirlpool Washer - \$65**

**Wholesale KRAFTMAID Cabinetry**

### 245 Miscellaneous

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Gifts for all occasions. Whether you are selecting a gift to celebrate, motivate, congratulate, express affection, appreciation, recognition, sympathy or joy. Call our award winning designer, Carmel Tarver at 888-408-4347 or 925-366-2364

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Old Towne Penobscot, 16 ft, Red, barely used, lots of extras worth \$200 incl. paddles, seats, motor mount & life jackets. All for \$875.  
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**DIRECTV SYSTEM FROM**  
Brand New Power Wheelchairs and Scooters. Call toll free 1-800-843-9199 24 hours a day to see if you qualify. (Cal-SCAN)

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Cherry, good condition. Diamond Back men's bike. Huffly woman's bike \$75 eax. 820-4744

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Combining households forces sale of living room sofa, tables, dining room set, office, bedroom, bar stools, kitchen island, wall units, lots of miscellaneous. Call 925-648-4555

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Watertight galvanized tank. Cylinder. d=2 ft., h=5 ft., 117 gal. Contained well water. \$30. You haul. Call 937-5344

**Garden Arbor & Pergola - \$300 & \$42**

**GO-PED**  
Red Sport Go-Ped for sale. Almost new, used less than 10 hrs. Original cost \$429, asking \$250. Includes extra tire, oil and gas can. Call (925)389-1723.

**Gourmet Coffee Home-Delivered**  
100% Arabica Beans, Premium Roasts, Columbian Supremo, French Roast, Kona Blend, Flavored Coffees, Regular or Decaf. \$5.99/12 oz. + shipping.  
Price list & order form  
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**HUGE CAT CAGES - \$150 each**

**Items 4 Sale**  
Large black foldable wire dog crate "Life Stages" 42L X 28W X 31H w/divider. Kelly "deuce coupe" jogging double stroller. \$50 each Call Seth at (925) 820-5564

**Items for Sale**  
Couch - green, 88", \$400  
Recliner Chair, \$150  
Thomasville Plant Stand, \$300  
27" Mitsubishi TV, \$100  
Hooker cherry bookcases, \$300 ea  
Hooker cherry corner entertainment ctr, \$1400  
Assorted Art Work  
Call 925-736-4330

**Kennel System**  
Mason modular kennel system. 6'x8'x6'2" T. Galvanized steel and chain link with table and water dish with holder. Excellent condition. \$150. Call 831-8218

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Ply construction, full suite of lowers including corner with 2 lazy susans and 1 30" wide with roll out drawers. Top quality includes SS sink. \$200 OBO. Call 925-820-3152.

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Toyons - oaks - succulents - strawberries - daylilies. Many more. 4" pot - 1 gallon can - \$.50 to \$5.00. FREE large bare root cacti. For information: cckerr@AOL.com  
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Antique Trunk / Fairbanks Scale / 1972 Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl Commemorative Six-Pack Pepsi / 8hp Rototiller - 26" front / Hi-Chair & Crib  
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**K2 Backpack-Mens Large - \$50**

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Part time help wanted for 2 thoroughbreds in a private Alamo stable. Feed, blanket, turn out, stall and barn cleaning, grooming; no riding. Minimum of 4 days; approx. 7:00am to noon and some afternoons. Prefer long term commitment. Must have horse experience and reliable transportation. \$10.00/hr. to start. Send experience and resume to shaughnessysfarm@aol.com or fax to 925-838-3007

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Good Wages ~ Weekly Pay  
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Vinny's 2 Go is a new pizzeria, looking for a prep cook / general kitchen helper. Experience preferred.  
Call 925-463-0280

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M/F. Golden Valley Print Facility, Golden Valley, Arizona. Printing with Community; Previous management experience. Kingman Newspapers, Inc. EEOE. Fax: 928-753-8350. sviehe@kingmandailyminer.com (Cal-SCAN)

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No exp. necessary. We train. Heavy lifting and good health req'd. Max age 34. H.S. Grads. Call 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

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San Ramon, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1400/mont

**805 Homes for Rent**  
4 BR/3BA  
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**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**  
LISTING ALERT!  
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Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$609,950  
Mtn. View, 2BR/1BA  
MOBILE HOME in lovely Sunset Estates-Adult park. (650-326-3423)  
Pleasanton, 2 BR/2 BA - \$419,000  
Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$689,000  
Tri-valley - \$306,000

**830 Commercial/Income Property**  
C-1 and C-2 lot 4 sale by owner - \$20K/each

Danville Office Bldg  
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**Danville**  
WEEKLY

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK DANVILLE



### 9402 Alcosta Blvd

4 bd, 2 ba, @ 1900 sq. ft., 1/4 acrea lot, excellent location, close to schools and shopping. Listed at \$694,000.

**Sold for \$767,000**  
by Ron Pratt  
of Re/Max Accord

## SALES AT A GLANCE

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 24	Total sales reported: 6	Total sales reported: 32
Lowest sale reported: \$491,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,199,000	Lowest sale reported: \$297,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,111,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,160,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,465,000
Average sales reported: \$1,016,770	Average sales reported: \$1,673,000	Average sales reported: \$745,218

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2005

This weeks data represents homes sold during April 2005

### Danville

- 1960 Casablanca Street** Shapell Industries to S. Golani for \$1,098,500
- 1966 Casablanca Street** Shapell Industries to P. Bierhuis for \$1,165,000
- 1208 Cheshire Circle** Higgins Trust to S. & J. Conrad for \$1,050,000
- 105 Cottonwood Place** A. & P. Meyers to F. Gholmansaraei for \$1,100,000
- 3332 Deer Hollow Drive** G. & M. Duarte to Jaskolski Trust for \$2,111,000
- 3720 Deer Trail Drive** S. Tarpinian to M. Rostami for \$1,537,000
- 545 El Capitan Drive** J. & H. McCarthy to D. Smeester for \$960,000
- 1417 Fountain Springs Circle** S. Olson to H. Jia for \$845,000
- 1133 Greenbrook Drive** Dimaggio Trust to S. Stern for \$720,000
- 327 Jacaranda Drive** Trifeletti Trust to Tarpinian Trust for \$960,000
- 69 Jasmine Court** Otten Trust to R. & M. Boyd for \$1,350,000
- 237 Jasmine Way** D. & V. Standish to C. Oki for \$1,015,000
- 152 Kingswood Circle** J. & C. Mitchell to P. & S. Wong for \$874,000
- 444 Live Oak Drive** A. & J. Venturi to J. Fuentes for \$1,225,000
- 222 Marigold Street** R. & T. Pon to M. & M. Kol for \$850,000
- 713 Oakmont Court** J. Odell to Schmid Trust for \$792,000
- 212 Powhattan Court** M. Jones to N. & R. Homes for \$700,000
- 1143 San Ramon Valley**

- Boulevard** Z. Bao to K. & C. Stevenson for \$491,000
- 533 Silver Lake Drive** C. Dunn to H. Harootenian for \$795,000
- 83 Stoddard Place** J. & N. Mellen to A. & A. Hill for \$1,002,000
- 1317 Strawberry Court** Y. Jeon to E. Contillo for \$820,000
- 186 Tivoli Lane** Meginnis Trust to N. & J. Taddeo for \$770,000
- 205 Walnut Creek Court** T. & A. Wilson to M. & I. Weber for \$1,100,000
- 501 Zita Court** B. & J. Lagomarsino to J. & S. Donnelly for \$1,072,000

### Alamo

- 2598 Alamo Country Circle** L. Hale to T. & C. McVay for \$1,899,000
- 1448 Entrada Verde Place** Alamo Design Limited to M. & M. McClellan for \$1,500,000
- 215 Hawk Court** Ashby Trust to H. & P. Overton for \$2,160,000
- 25 Lewis Lane** J. & L. Hencier to M. & A. Lee for \$1,800,000
- 3143 Roundhill Road** A. Mahmoodi to Ghorbani Trust for \$1,199,000
- 2426 Royal Oaks Drive** Hauer Trust to B. & J. Lagomarsino for \$1,480,000

### Walnut Creek

- 606 Banbury Court** M. & D. Null to B. & L. McMillan-Gordon for \$1,150,000
- 2115 Cactus Court #6** G. Strathdee to Katz Trust for \$600,000
- 519 Coralie Drive** A. & I. Meyer to R. & M. Salcedo for \$725,000
- 1050 Craddock Court** M. & H. Werthan to P. Tomei for \$1,465,000
- 1785 Crescent Drive** M. & T. McLaughlin to D. & N. Allison for \$855,000

- 1201 Dewing Lane** Condeff Trust to J. Rincon for \$670,000
- 146 Firestone Drive** E. & A. Huber to R. Balasubramanian for \$830,000
- 178 Glen Court** Johnson Trust to Cox Trust for \$800,000
- 819 Holly Hill Drive** C. Campbell to J. & B. Korfhage for \$850,000
- 1241 Homestead Avenue #202** M. Kahhali to G. Bagga for \$393,000
- 5920 Horsemans Canyon Drive #3C** Newman Trust to Carbone Trust for \$526,500
- 823 Hutchinson Road** Downey Trust to L. Bartlett for \$878,000
- 101 Kendall Road** H. & Z. Marks to A. Kastamanov for \$700,000
- 400 Muller Road** G. & J. Cody to M. & T. Billeci for \$1,040,000
- 320 North Civic Drive #303** J. Attard to K. Miller for \$355,000
- 2586 Oak Road #231** M. Bazargani to S. Au for \$535,000
- 326 Preakness Court** T. Wei to D. & C. Kennerley for \$520,000
- 609 Preakness Drive** H. Zhu to X. Mei for \$540,000
- 3580 Rossmoor Parkway #2** Dangott Trust to M. Edwards for \$675,000
- 632 Shadowhawk Way** F. & J. Heaney to Jones Trust for \$1,400,000
- 2125 Skycrest Drive #1** K. & L. Buell to Robbert Trust for \$599,000
- 2100 Skycrest Drive #7** N. & J. Pitkin to Y. Kim for \$297,000
- 1471 Springbrook Road** K. Gordon to H. Zhu for \$810,000
- 1932 Stratton Circle** Grosjean Trust to S. & Y. Bindman for \$700,000

➤ Continued on page 23

## 23 Harmonia Pointe Way



Located in Calipso Bay subdivision in Copperopolis 3BR, 2.5 BA with an office, 2296 sq. ft, 3-car garage, upgraded granite and maple kitchen, ideal court location, new gated community, club house w/pool, launch ramp, private sand beach (10) day use boat slips.

**\$589,000.**

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# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

To list your home in the Danville Weekly Open Home Guide, please call the Ad Services Department at (925) 600-0840 x16

## Blackhawk

5 Bedrooms

2173 Deer Oak Way \$1,799,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Alain Pinel Realtors  
925-998-9747

## Danville

4 Bedrooms

1035 Alicante Drive \$1,125,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty Associates- Joy Pratt  
925-217-5017

462 Enterprise Drive \$1,129,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Coldwell Banker- Matt Davis  
925-831-3373

306 Zagora Drive \$1,298,000  
Sat 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 925-362-2075

500 Starview Drive \$1,995,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Realty  
925-791-2753

5 Bedrooms

8 Creekledge Court \$1,799,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 925-216-0454

## Request Bedrooms

13 La Vista Way \$1,249,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 925-323-6735

## Pleasanton

2 Bedrooms

3961 Appian Street \$629,000  
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. Kristine & JP 408-505-9262

3 Bedrooms

1137 Kottinger Drive \$599,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Karen Muccio, Hometown  
GMAC 925-548-8641

## Pleasanton

5 Bedrooms

2975 Sorano Court \$2,150,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Shane Bohlen, Ruby Hill Realty  
925-417-2250

## Home sales

► Continued from page 22

1968 Stratton Circle T. & A. Brady to A. Anderson for \$692,500

3287 Sugarberry Lane Mlakar Trust to L. & H. Gallardo for \$805,000

1598 Sunnyvale Avenue #8 J. Sloan to S. Mirzad for \$305,000

3330 Terra Granada Drive #2A Graves Trust to

Vondermeden Trust for \$690,000

664 Via Appia R. & R. Giacomini to E. Rapoport for \$652,000

3673 Vista Charonoaks Ramani Trust to M. Pawar for \$1,400,000

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# of Bedrooms	Street Address	\$ Price of property
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## BLACKHAWK

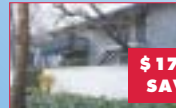
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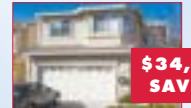
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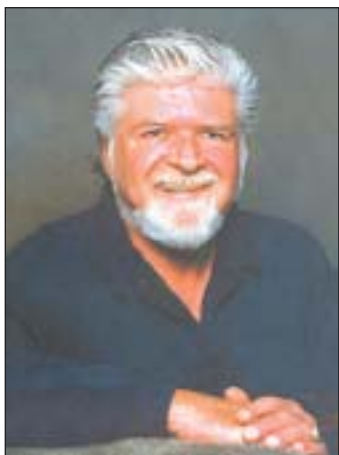
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