

Pump it up Exercise takes to the great outdoors > **page 18**

Vol. II, Number 2 • May 12, 2006

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Outstanding senior

County recognizes Danville man for helping others

> **page 5**

Danville

W E E K L Y

On an odyssey

Baldwin-Vista Grande team prepares for national competition

> **page 6**

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Danville International
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page 16

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Q: What is your favorite memory of your mother?



One thing I remember, because I have a picture of it, is my mother dressing us up to go to the zoo. I have two other sisters and we all sat on a bench outside and had our pictures taken. When we got to the zoo, the first thing that happened was that I fell in a mud puddle and I was dirty for the rest of the day. She cleaned me up and made the best of it.

Karen Adams
nurse



When she was 65 we climbed to the top of Washington Monument on Vancouver Island, Canada. It was a long hike and it felt like it was going on forever. She's a small woman and I had no idea she could do it.

Brad Taylor
law enforcement



I remember on one skiing trip she got everybody dressed, ready to go, and up to the chairlift. We looked down and she forgot to put her skis on. Good old mom. Always putting everybody else in front of herself.

Chuck Steel
stay-at-home dad



My mom always cooked prime rib on New Year's. That was worth going home to. Holidays were always great.

Dave Parker
construction



I have lots of good memories of my mom. Probably the best was when I got to go to Switzerland with her for 10 days to visit my sister. I'd never gotten to spend 10 days, just with her.

Will Newman
barista

COMPILED BY NATALIE O'NEILL

ABOUT THE COVER

Coming soon! The Danville Children's International Film Festival will be held next weekend, May 19-21, with movies for, by and about children. It's great entertainment for the whole family. Cover design by Jason Lind.

Vol. II, Number 2

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ When I get a ‘thank you’ from my clients, my heart skips a beat. ”

—Edwin Hansen, winner of an award for Outstanding Seniors in Service. See story, page 5.

Bike to work Thursday

Bike to Work Day will have one energizer station in Danville on Thursday, May 18, as folks around the Bay Area pedal to their destinations in recognition of bicycling as a fun and convenient mode of transportation. The station will be on the Iron Horse Trail, behind Andronico's, to give support to bike commuters with free refreshments, giveaways and bicycling information—and encouragement.

The Bay Area Bicycle Coalition encourages participants to register online at 511.org; 50,000-100,000 are expected throughout the Bay Area.

Museum looks to spark imagination

The Valley Children's Museum board of directors recently announced it is moving ahead with plans to locate the museum in Dublin. The museum, which received a \$25,000 grant from Sybase Inc., will bring play-based programs to children in the area.

“Valley Children's Museum will be a great asset for the Tri-Valley community,” said John Chen, president of Sybase.

The museum was begun in 1999 by a group of parents determined to have a local venue for educational, hands-on exhibits for young children. It has been providing moving exhibits and programs while looking throughout the Tri-Valley for a permanent home.

Danville Library getting ready for summer adventures

Get ready for adventure, drama, romance and suspense wrapped up in the Contra Costa County Library's Summer Reading Program. It will take place June 12-Aug. 21 and will have something for everyone with prizes to reward those who discover the rewards of reading.

Children through grade 5 will follow animal tracks on their reading record during the Kids Reading Program, “Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales.” Teens in grades 6-12 can take part in “Creature Feature: Teens Read 2006,” and see what's lurking around the corner. The Contra Costa County Library is also introducing the first Adult Reading Program for ages 18 and over, so it won't just be the kids having all the fun.

Check out the Danville Library, 400 Front St., to find out more about the great reads and chances to win prizes or visit www.ccclib.org.

A's sluggers win cash for local

Violet Dimova, a Danville resident, may now just be the biggest Oakland A's fan in the entire Bay Area.

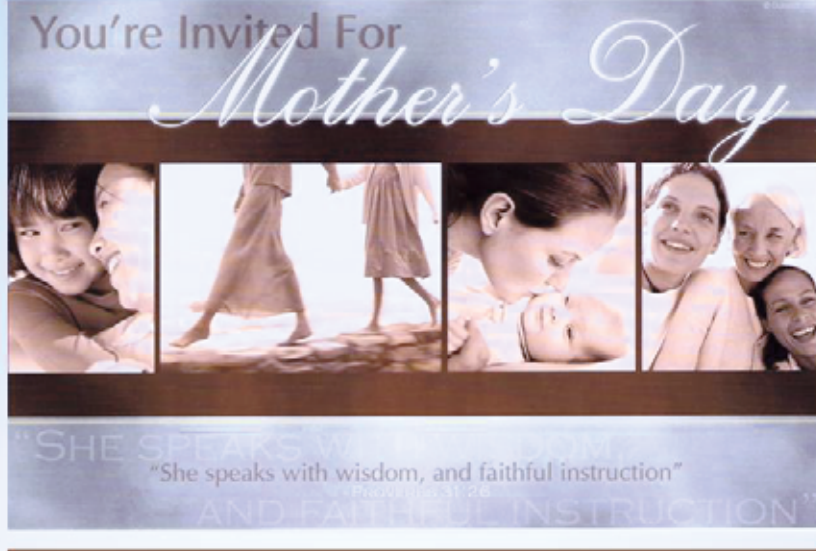
At an April 15 game against the Texas Rangers, A's players Eric Chavez and Frank Thomas hit back-to-back homeruns during the sixth inning. Next-at-bat Milton Bradley hit a third consecutive homerun.

This made Dimova the winner of the U.S. Bank Back-2-Back Cash Back Inning, a special promotion that gives A's fans the chance to win \$5,000 if the A's hit back-to-back homeruns in the sixth inning.

“We're thrilled for Violet and for the A's sluggers who gave all of us a great thrill with their back-to-back-to-back homeruns,” said Ole Larsen, U.S. Bank region manager for Northern California.

Entry forms for this promotion can be picked up at any of the Bay Area U.S. Bank branches.

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Trail concerns

Official says Alamo has most violations of right of way

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Some Alamo residents who live along the Iron Horse Regional Trail sought encroachment permits for their gardens, decorations and fences this week, after Public Works began a crackdown on right of way violations along the trail.

Petroleum pipelines, utility lines and optic fiber beneath the ground are major safety concerns, along with fallen debris from trees, said trail experts and Public Works officials. Encroachments that run within the 20-foot right of way are considered a liability to the county.

"This could affect anybody who ends up digging at any level. No one wants to run into a petroleum pipe," said Beverly Lane, East Bay Regional Park District director.

While the trail stretches from Concord to Dublin, most encroachment violations are in Alamo, said Public Works representative John Pulliam.

"The effort is starting in Alamo because there are the most number of fences. It's the oldest community along the corridor, and it hasn't been planned like other communities," Pulliam said.

Pulliam has received about 30 phone calls since a letter was sent to 1,200 residents in late April, warning them about violation enforcement. He noted most of the calls have been from people seeking clarification on how to make appropriate improvements.

Some property owners, however, were not pleased with the crackdown and are concerned the effort may take away from the trail's character. Vibrant gardens, artistic statues and charming fences are what make the trail unique and removing them might give it a different feeling, residents have said.

Bob Myhre has large statues of carved bears and a sunflower garden next to the trail, which many trail-users enjoy. While he doesn't believe they would cause any harm, he has made sure his decorations are outside the right of way.

► Continued on page 9



LAMI ALLEN

Fun run in the sun

Ready, set, go! The 3 and 4-year-olds take off in the Kids Fun Run. An estimated 2,500 folks young and old came out for the Workday Devil Mountain Run on Sunday, taking place in downtown Danville for the 29th year. There were 1,800 runners and walkers signed up for the 5K and 10K events. An estimated \$30,000-\$40,000 was raised for Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, said David Roddy, director of RoddyCo., event organizer.

School district gets 'A' for excellent goals

Trustees approve goals to raise curriculum and standards

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

New and improved goals are on the horizon for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District for the next school year and beyond.

Trustees approved the district goals last month in a continuing effort to raise its level of curriculum and standards. The goals are ongoing and are approved annually

by the school board.

Everyone in the district develops plans to reach the goals, said district Superintendent Robert Kessler.

"You want to identify what your priorities are," he said. "You want to focus on improving things."

"Everything flows from the goals," Kessler said.

The goals involve maintaining academic growth of high performing students and raising the level of lower performing students; making district services more customer friendly; developing effective programs for special education; and finding ways to stop bullying and

disrespectful behavior.

"We started these goals a few years ago," said Trustee Joan Buchanan. "Goals are something we believe in moving forward together."

Trustee Greg Marvel said the district has been moving in the right direction but it still has much to accomplish.

"When we have reached all those goals, we have reached Nirvana," he said.

Kessler said the district developed its goals by complying with state curriculum standards, his staff's ideas, requests from the

board, and input by students and parents.

To work on improving academic standards, school administrators gathered data from a battery of tests to see who is struggling, he said. Based on the test data, the district develops training programs for educators on how to help students reach state standards.

According to results from the 2004 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)—which is taken from grades 2 through 11 in reading, writing and mathematics—more than 60 percent of students at every grade level scored at the

proficient or advanced level in both mathematics and English/language arts.

And more than 80 percent of students in the district scored proficient or advanced.

Additionally, the district enjoyed some of the highest passing rates in the entire state. At San Ramon Valley High School, there was a 97 percent passing on both the math and English portions. In Monte Vista High School, 98 percent of students passed the math section and 97 percent the English part.

► Continued on page 10



NATALIE O'NEILL

Edwin Hansen, who has been nominated for the Senior Coalition's Outstanding Senior Award, pays a visit to a sick elderly client at Sycamore Place apartments in Danville.

Senior helping seniors

Helpful attitude just what the doctor ordered

by **Natalie O'Neill**

When 75-year-old Edwin Hansen walks down the halls of Sycamore Place senior apartments in Danville, he has a bounce in his step. Older folks smile and wave, and some look forward to seeing him all week.

Hansen doesn't live at the center—he is still healthy and independent—but he volunteers to help the elderly on almost a daily basis. He stops by the home to make sure residents aren't feeling lonely, and he takes seniors to doctor appointments, shopping for groceries, and out for walks.

To acknowledge his contribution to the community, the Contra Costa County Senior Coalition will honor Hansen with an outstanding senior award May 23 at Centre Concord as part of Older Americans Month.

"When I get a 'thank you' from my clients, my heart skips a beat," Hansen said.

Jennifer Overmoe, program coordinator for adults and seniors for the Town of Danville, said Hansen is an incredibly positive, reliable person.

"How are you feeling today? Is the medication working?" he asks an elderly resident who is struggling with sickness and pain.

The question, asked with concern and sincerity, seems to mean the world to her.

"It's been a bad day," she says.

Overmoe recalled a situation in which Hansen stayed with a woman all day, while she waited for a doctor's appointment in Martinez.

"He took her all the way there and stayed with her the whole time, for four or five hours," she said. "When I talked to him he was very positive about it, even though it was unexpected."

Hansen said he was compelled to stay with the woman, who is African-American and in her 80s, because he felt the long wait was partially due to racial discrimination. No one else could be there for her, so he wanted to be, he said.

"Patients would come in (to the waiting room) and they would go right ahead of her," he said. "We

► Continued on page 8

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Sophia Gross, a fifth-grader at John Baldwin Elementary School, helps assemble her fast food project for Odyssey of the Mind.

Unleashing creativity

Danville teams heading
to Odyssey of the Mind nationals

by Jordan M. Doronila

Freeing themselves from the fetters of convention, thousands of excited children play outside the box as they journey through the Odyssey of the Mind.

A team of fifth-graders from John Baldwin and Vista Grande elementary schools were among those who participated this year in the worldwide Odyssey of the Mind, an educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

They took first place at the program's state competition in Sacramento and will now go to the finals at Iowa State University in Ames from May 24-27. Approximately 800 teams will be going to Ames, including 30 California teams that finished first and second in their divisions. A team of five students from Monte Vista High School also made it to the finals in Iowa.

"I think they learn how to think outside the box," said Mary Grace Hoolihan, a Danville parent involved with guiding the Baldwin and Vista Grande kids from in the competition this year. "Anything is the right solution."

"It keeps them open to ideas and differences," she added.

Thousands of Odyssey of the Mind teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 countries participate in the program, including Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore and Uzbekistan.


Schools or community groups purchase a membership and form teams of up to seven students. Each team chooses one of five competitive problems to solve, which are technical, artistic or performance oriented.

Under the guidance of an adult coach, teams work on their solutions throughout the school year and, if they choose, present them in organized competitions in the spring.

The "friendly" competitive aspect encourages students to be the best that they can be, according to Odyssey of the Mind's Web site.

The Baldwin and Vista Grande students said they were given the problem to create a parade that would travel over a given route. To solve or "perform" the problem, they spent \$150 to purchase a tricycle, fabric, plastic pipe, wood, ribbon, foam, cardboard and cotton to build a moving mobile and a town to symbolize fast food.


► Continued on page 11



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Four duplexes under construction on Livorna at I-680

Builders expect project to be finished by late summer

by Natalie O'Neill

The primary phase of construction began this week for a subdivision on Livorna Road, right next to the I-680 freeway exit in Alamo. The four-acre lot will include four duplexes and will be marketed to adults 50 and older, said James Wang, Discovery Bay Builders manager.

"This project should be done by the end of the summer," Wang said.

Weather will play a major role in the project's completion, but construction workers said they don't expect it to be more than a five-month project.

"Right now we're just doing the grading," said Tom Butterfield, construction foreman. "Everything depends on the weather."

Workers have tractors on-site to flatten the dirt and prepare for construction. No architectural plans have been approved yet, but the concept behind the plans has been given the OK. Discovery Bay Builders expect the duplexes to have a common park area for mem-

"Right now we're just doing the grading. Everything depends on the weather."

—Tom Butterfield, construction foreman

bers of the subdivision to gather and they expect many of the residents to be retired.

Concern from neighbors about noise prompted Discovery Builders to direct the housing market to older buyers, representatives said. The houses have been designed in a way that is sensitive to the residents in the nearby houses. ■



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Senior

► Continued from page 5

waited from 11 a.m. to around 4," he said.

Every Tuesday and Thursday for the last year, Hansen has gone for a walk with a client who is in the beginning phases of Alzheimer's disease. This is a challenge for Hansen because this client doesn't communicate verbally and often doesn't recognize him.

"We walk through the park when the kids are out at recess playing. He really enjoys it. He can't say it—but you can see it in his eyes," Hansen said.

The best thing he can do is keep us company, said one assisted living resident. Hansen repaired the break on her walker and helped another senior fix her toilet.

"He is such a nice man, he takes me to my eye doctor," said Lidia Azuwo, whom he regularly drives.

Helping people in need seems to be what Hansen does best, but he also spends time at the gym, gardening and talking with his wife.

"I have an abundance of energy. I go to the gym and work out. I hate to sit around."

—Edwin Hansen, senior volunteer

For a man in his mid-70s he is very fit and active.

"I do have an abundance of energy. I go to the gym and work out. I hate to sit around," he said.

While Hansen is happy to be recognized by the community for his efforts, he will not attend the luncheon in his honor. Being in the spotlight is an uncomfortable feeling for him, he said.

"I have a speech impediment and I'd rather be seen than heard," Hansen said.

The luncheon will be part of the fourth annual Mary Shockley Memorial Award for Outstanding Seniors in Service. For more information, call Linda Ausplund at 943-5851. ■

Tennis anyone?

Kids' Country, which provides before- and after-school and vacation care for students at 11 elementary schools in the San Ramon Valley, received a \$1,500 grant from the American Tennis Association

to offer tennis instruction to its students. The grant included funds for equipment at each site, staff training and support.

"The generosity of the American Tennis Association is enabling us to offer the experience of learning about and playing tennis to more than 1,200 children, something we wouldn't be able to offer them otherwise," says Kids' Country Executive Director Leonard Heid. "It's a very valuable addition to our after-school program and the children and staff are enjoying it immensely."

Last fall, 30 staff members were trained to teach the basics of tennis to their students. In November, each site received six racquets and balls and one portable net.

Children have weekly opportunities to practice tennis skills and volley with others. The emphasis is on learning the basic skills and rules of tennis and on having fun, rather than on competition. At the end of the school year, participating children will be tested to measure the skills they have learned. ■

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It's a tough job...

Nancy Vinson and some of the staff at Vacation Discounters pause to read the Danville Weekly while checking out the Princeville Resort on the "Garden Isle" of Kauai. They were reportedly there on business, touring resorts and condominiums on the island to be able to help their customers plan Hawaiian vacations.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

Trail

► Continued from page 5

He said most encroachments are not a real threat to the well-being of passers-by.

"It's a scare tactic. People putting in a fence aren't going to hit a pipe. The lines are much below that," he said.

Other residents supported the effort, citing that landowners who violate the regulations put other people in the community at risk.

"I have kids that take their bikes on this trail. I have to worry about their safety," said an Alamo woman, who jogs on the trail and asked not

to be identified.

Pulliam said the bottom line is that safety has to be the county's first priority.

"I don't see beautification as being an issue, when safety is a concern," he said.

Letters sent out to property owners along the Iron Horse Trail stated that if owners didn't remove their violating encroachments, the county would remove them at the property owner's expense. The county is currently stressing the importance of acquiring permits.

"(Right of way violations) require us to do more sweeping for bikers and roller bladers," said Jamie Perkins, Senior Trails Planner for East Bay Regional Parks.

Pulliam said Public Works is

"It's a scare tactic. People putting in a fence aren't going to hit a pipe."

—Bob Myhre, Alamo resident on the Iron Horse Trail

currently giving residents along the trail time to make the changes.

"I encourage people to work with us," he said. ■

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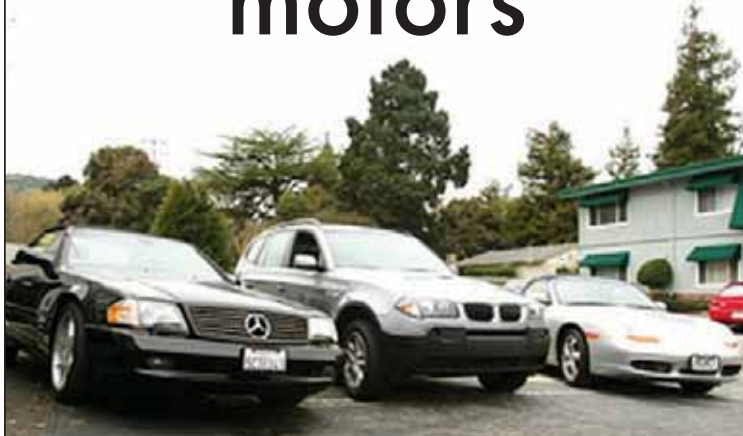
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Kessler

► Continued from page 5

“The district has improved every year,” said Buchanan. “It’s an indication that we are focused and working together.”

But Kessler said despite the district’s success, Hispanics and African-Americans continue to score lower than the district average. He said the district wants to close the gap between all student groups.

Marvel said overall he is pleased with the student academic performance, but he wants the district to look beyond just being the best in the state.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Robert Kessler, superintendent of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, talks about his plans for improving the district’s standards.

“How are we doing nationally?” he asked. “How do our schools compare with high-performing high schools in other states? Where are we? Can we trumpet our success in a national perspective?”

“Every state in the nation is looking at California in terms of its standards,” he added. “Our focus needs to shift in California to being the best in the nation. That’s where I’m headed.”

He added that it’s necessary for students to prepare for these tests because it helps them do well in the business world and attend top colleges.

“What are we doing for students who want to go to a Berkeley or a Stanford or a UCLA?” Marvel asked.

Working toward the goal of making district services more community friendly, board members asked the administrators to become customer-oriented.

Buchanan said the board has been pushing for a while to have district service employees return phone calls in a timely manner.

“We want students to know that they are being listened to,” she said.

“We are here to serve you—not ourselves,” said Marvel.

The goal of providing more programs for special needs students was necessary because parents of those in special education have complained vehemently in board meetings of the lack of attention their children receive in the district, parents said.

“The students don’t want to listen to parents of special needs kids,” said Kim Ii, a mother whose son was in a special education class in Charlotte Wood Middle School. “It’s quite a problem in this area.”

“They tend to lump all kids in special day classes,” she added. “We don’t have any real programs for special needs students.”

She said another problem is that educators who design the Individual Education Plans for special education students fail to tell parents when they make a decision.

“They make a decision behind your back,” she said.

Lastly, bullying and disrespectful behavior are serious issues in the district, and school officials felt it was important to make it a priority to “foster a safe environment.”

Kessler said students submitted comments about these issues.

“‘That’s gay’ and ‘you retard’ are some of the comments that students say,” said Kessler.

“Our obligation is to make the district safe and positive,” said Terry Koehne, district community relations coordinator.

Kessler said he and staff are developing a plan to coincide with the district’s goals. He said he has brought site administrators to the district to help teachers do their job more efficiently. One, they brought in a new software called Achieve that analyzes and collects data for educators. This should help teachers deal with different types of students. Two, they are continuing to improve the reading and writing curriculum.

SRVUSD goals

- Maintain academic growth of high performing students and raise the level of lower performing students
- Make district services more customer friendly
- Develop effective programs for special education
- Find ways to stop bullying and disrespectful behavior

“It’s great stuff,” said Kessler. “We are the first to adopt this in the high schools in the state.”

He said his program is already in the middle school.

“It’s a way to engage kids,” he added.

He said he also brought in software called GENESEA, which is a Web-based special education management system that collects data on special needs students. He explained there are 4,000 procedures to fill out for special needs students.

“How can we help teachers not get overworked by paperwork?” Kessler asked when he decided to get the software.

He said his staff has developed videos in the middle school for parents and kids to watch about bullying and disrespectful behavior. Koehne said these videos are mandatory.

Koehne said he is working to make it easier for people to access the district’s Web site and has created a new e-mail system named Lyris to send district information to parents. There are 22,000 parents on the system. ■



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Odyssey

► Continued from page 6

They built a moving mechanism on the tricycle that turned into giant french fries, a milkshake, a burger and ketchup. Additionally, they wrote a script to perform in their parade in front of the judges.

Students said they found the experience enlightening.

"You learn to work with a team and that's really hard," said Sara Augustinsky, a fifth-grader from Baldwin.

"Sometimes, they are really annoying," said Sophia Grossman, a fifth-grader from Baldwin, jokingly, about working with other kids.

Other team members were Nick Lola, Chris Pollard, Cody Morrison, Chris Swenson and Michelle Liu.

"No team in the world will have the same idea for a problem," said Hoolihan.

Dr. Sam Micklus, an engineering professor at Rowan University in



Chris Swenson of Vista Grande Elementary drives the fast food mobile for his team, which is competing in the Odyssey of the Mind in Iowa. Michelle Liu stands behind him for support.

New Jersey, founded Odyssey of the Mind. He said, on the Web site, that kids learn from and even cheer on their competitors.

"Odyssey of the Mind is not a college bowl or a competition about knowledge. It's all about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students," he said. ■

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The Odyssey Team: (l-r) Codey Morrison, Nick Lola, Chris Pollard, Chris Swenson, Sophia Grossman, Sarah Augustinsky and Michelle Liu.

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



The motherhood link

Eleven years ago, my sister and I gave a big 80th birthday party for my mother. We are so glad we did. Soon after that, my father's health began to decline and he passed away five years later. Then my mother's health also began to fail. Looking back at the guest list, I see that most of the friends in attendance are now gone.

One thing I recall about that party is the speech my sister and I gave. We went over my mother's life, from her birth in Los Gatos to her girlhood on a ranch in San Jose, and on to her education, marriage and motherhood. We told of our memories growing up with her as a mother. I remember her commenting to us after the party: "The funny thing is, I didn't think I was that good of a mother." But by the time she turned 80, my sister and I had also raised children, so we were not young adults remembering our childhood. We held her up to no idealistic ideas of childrearing, but viewed her motherhood through the eyes of women who have gone through the same experiences, which, of course, gave us worlds of understanding.

I remember when my oldest was born thinking, "My mother went through that?!!!" When we called my parents to tell them they had a new grandson, I also thanked her and said I finally understood what she had gone through. Even with the experience 25 years behind her, she seemed glad to hear I appreciated it.

But the birth is just the beginning. Motherhood gave me an appreciation of my own mother's patience, understanding and steadfastness. Although life passes in the blink of an eye, each day can be long, especially when a baby is colicky or a toddler is being contrary. We won't even mention adolescence. But I'm a happy, well-adjusted

adult and so are my children, so I'd say in total my mom and I both did a good job. (Yes, dear, I know the dads had something to do with it.) There are things I wish I'd done differently—more celebration of the moment perhaps—but hopefully my children will remember what I did right. If I made mistakes, they seem to not hold grudges, although they do tease me about certain incidents in their childhood. (Such as the time I allowed my son to substitute a hotdog for the deep-fried calamari that was our entrée but wouldn't allow him to eat it in a bun. OK, it didn't make sense but I was annoyed that he wouldn't eat the calamari; I was sure he'd like it, and today, he admits, it is a favorite of his.) One of the dearest things my daughter, now 26, ever said to me was a couple of years ago, that she wishes I'd had her when I was younger, rather than 33, so we could be friends longer.

The birth is just the beginning. Motherhood gave me an appreciation of my own mother's patience, understanding and steadfastness.

When my children were little, they would "surprise" me with precious homemade cards and poems and breakfast. How delightful that was! But as children grow, the nature of holidays also changes. On Sunday, I will go to my mother's home and sit by her bedside for an hour or two. With luck, she'll be having a good day and we'll be able to talk and laugh. I'll tell her about the latest adventures of my son and daughter, who don't live close enough to be here, and what's new in my own life. But I also hope to talk about the past. I'd like to learn more while I can, maybe about her own mother, who was born in Prague and came to the United States while still young. She and my grandfather, also of Czech heritage but born in Chicago, were married in Iowa but soon moved to Santa Clara Valley. Mother's Day is not just a time to honor my mother or to be remembered by my own children. It's a day to continue the motherhood link through the generations. ■

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Good for Blackhawk

Last week's announcement that Draeger's Market is coming to Blackhawk Plaza was good news. This venue has always lacked a main tenant with the real weight to be an anchor for the shops and restaurants that comprise the shopping center.

When the Blackhawk development opened in the '80s—in the middle of nowhere—its residents needed a place to buy groceries so the idea of anchoring the plaza with a market seemed like a good one. The ritzy FJ's was the talk of the valley, selling groceries in an upscale setting, and folks from all around came to check it out—at least once. But apparently residents preferred to do the bulk of their grocery shopping during trips to "town."

Eventually, Saks Fifth Avenue came to the anchor spot. Then Gottschalks. While some residents like Gottschalks for its many sales and its basics, others say it is mostly empty. Now it's back to groceries but with a gourmet flair that can complement the Safeway across Camino Tassajara.

Draeger's Market is a staple on the Peninsula. Readers of our newspaper in Menlo Park consistently name it as their favorite grocery store, bakery and place to buy meat. It also has the reputation of having great sandwiches-to-go, hard-to-find gourmet items, organic fruits and vegetables, and a changing menu of 40 salads, 20 entrees and homemade soup. And it carries conventional grocery store fare. The remodel of the premises will also improve the exterior, enhancing the already lovely plaza.

With all the new housing developments off Camino Tassajara, the population should be able to support Draeger's Market. Its success on the Peninsula shows it can offer the public value. From the beginning, the movie theaters and the Museums at Blackhawk have been success stories. Now it looks like Blackhawk Plaza is poised for another hit with its new anchor store.

"When the Blackhawk development opened in the '80s ... the idea of anchoring the plaza with a market seemed like a good one."

YOUR TURN

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for that week's edition; please limit letters to 250 words, and provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

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LETTERS

Thanks for getting word out

Dear Editor:

Thank you to all who stepped up and donated time and funds to support the Sentinels of Freedom's latest recipient Sgt. Joey Bozik and his wife Jayme as they start their new lives in our community. Literally hundreds of you made this possible. Joey was wounded in Iraq almost two years ago and since then has recovered and rehabilitated at Walter Reed Army Hospital. On his last day there as he pulled out of the gates and headed to Danville he called me on his cell and said these words: "Mike, I feel like I can breath again. Please let everyone who helped us know how grateful we are." Imagine that, he's thanking us.

Joey and Jayme will arrive in mid June to their home donated by Castle Construction, furniture and a van donated by the residents of this community, and a job offered by Wells Fargo Bank. A group of local business professionals will mentor him over the next four years as he transitions from military life to being a productive member of our community. The Danville Weekly played a great part in helping us get the word out so a special thanks to their leadership and staff for becoming involved.

Joey and Jayme will see you all at the 4th of July parade when you will get a chance to welcome them to Danville.

*God bless you all for your kindness,
Mike Conklin*

Quite a year for the Thatchers

Dear Editor:

What a shocking surprise to see our faces on your cover this week. Our 15 minutes of fame!!!

We are celebrating this year with some major travel—Hawaii, Africa and the Mediterranean and, of course, the Danville Weekly will be with us. Between Dec. 5 and Dec. 6 we both will have our 65th birthday, and in the middle of the year we will have been married (happily) for 40 years.

And to top it off we made the cover of a "major" news weekly. WOW!!

Thanks for helping us celebrate.

*Henry and Barbara Thatcher,
Danville*

Correction and thank you

Dear Editor:

We were pleased to see the article on the visiting French students from Beziers, France (May 5). Unfortunately, Audrey Mathurin was not greeted by John and Debbie Barone. We had the pleasure of hosting Pascal Carpio for the second year in a row.

We would encourage other families to participate in this rewarding program even if, like ourselves, they don't have teenagers living at home. Because of this program, we've had the opportunity to get to know a really outstanding student, who has become like a family member that we truly care about and enjoy. So thank you, Terry Griffith, Martine Causse and all the other host families and students that make this program so special.

Debbie and John Barone, Danville



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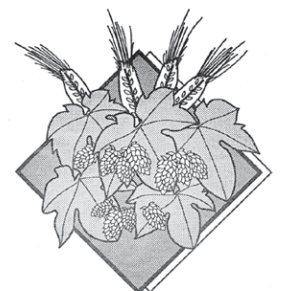
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POLICE BULLETIN

Robber strikes Wells Fargo in Danville

A man wearing a heavy tan jacket and dark blue pants robbed a Wells Fargo Bank on San Ramon Boulevard last week around 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

The suspect, a white male around age 50, approached a female teller and flashed a gun underneath his jacket, according to police.

"Give me all your money," the suspect said," Danville Sgt. Ron Bradley reported.

The suspect was described as 5 feet 8 inches with a thick brown mustache and a hooded coat, Bradley said. After he took the money, he exited through the bank's west door and headed to the south parking lot.

"He didn't get much," Bradley said. He added that no one was hurt and the amount of business

activity was light at the time of the crime although one female customer knew a robbery was occurring. After she left, the robber passed her, Bradley said.

"The tellers were scared," he also noted. Chris Hammond, spokesman for Wells Fargo, said the bank is pleased that everything is now under control after the robbery.

"Our top priority is safety for customers and our team members," Hammond said. "One robbery is one too many."

He said he could not disclose more information—such as the amount of money stolen—because doing so would affect "the integrity of the investigation."

Bradley said bank robberies in Danville are uncommon, although there was one April 6 at Bank of the West on Diablo Road. "Last year, we had three bank robberies," he said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, May 1

- Accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. and Smokewood Ct. at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2

- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Old Orchard Dr. and Park Hill Rd. at 1:28 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 1:24 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3

- Felony DUI, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:41 a.m.
- Grand theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 9:31 a.m.
- Armed robbery on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:23 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Town and Country at 11:11 a.m.
- Felony hit-and-run, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 1:28 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, on Camino Tassajara at 4:24 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 4:24 p.m.

Thursday, May 4

- Petty theft from vehicle on La Pera Ct. at 9:23 a.m.
- Felony vandalism on Camino Amigo at 11:46 a.m.

- Petty theft from building on Love Ln. at 2:15 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on La Questa Dr. at 3:09 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run, on Hartz Ave. at 7 p.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI, arrest, on Front St. and Hartz Way at 11:31 p.m.

Friday, May 5

- Residential burglary on Alicante Ct. at 7:03 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Turrini Ct. at 8:25 a.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on Morninghome Rd. at 12:37 p.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 1:17 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Everett Dr. at 2:56 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Creekside Ave. at 10:41 p.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI, arrest, on Green Valley Rd. at 11:43 p.m.

Saturday, May 6

- Misdemeanor DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:30 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Fostoria Way at 5:29 a.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:26 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Larkstone Ct. at 8:38 a.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on Pulido Ct. at 10:04 a.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI, arrest, on Greenbrook Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 6:06 p.m.

Sunday, May 7

- Disturbing the peace on Lawnview Cir. at 1:16 a.m.
- Possession of narcotics on Boone Ct. at 9:28 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Rd. at 11:45 a.m.
- Interfering with a public officer, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 2:06 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Sycamore Cir. at 7:04 p.m.
- Disturbing the peace on El Cerro Ct. at 10:01 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Wednesday, May 3

- Auto burglary on Livorna Rd.

Thursday, May 4

- Auto burglary on Ramona Way

Sunday, May 7

- Vandalism on Danville Blvd.

BLACKHAWK

Thursday, May 4

- Identity theft on Quail Run Dr.

DANVILLE

Monday, May 1

- Vandalism, felony, on Buckingham Pl.

TASSAJARA

Friday, May 5

- Vandalism on Camino Tassajara and Highland Rd.

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MV golfers score big victory

Geoff Gonzalez leads Mustangs to EBAL title

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

There was no doubt who was the champion of the competitive East Bay Athletic League on Monday, May 1, at Dollar Ranch Golf Course at Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. Monte Vista golfers all fired low scores to win the EBAL tournament and league championship by 11 shots with a team score of 367. Geoff Gonzalez was the medalist with a score of 69. His hot round included 7 birdies. Teammates Jake Bieber shot 72, Chris Oki 73, Jeff Hamm 75, and Will Schram 78.

Foothill finished second with a team score of 378, and Amador was third, shooting 396. All three teams qualified for the North Coast Section tournament held May 8 at Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland. San Ramon Valley's Elliot Arthur also qualified for the NCS tournament as an individual, shooting a score of 73.

"The boys stepped up and played well," said first-year coach Ron Hirschman. "Geoff was unbelievable, Jake played great, and Chris Oki did what he's done all year long and that is play huge for us."

At the NCS qualifier Monday, the Mustangs continued to roll, upsetting top-ranked De La Salle by two strokes with a team score of 362. Hamm led the team and was medalist of the tournament, shooting a 4 under par 68. The top 10 teams, and the top 12 individuals not qualifying on a team, will now advance to the NCS Tournament of Champions that will be held at Redwood Empire Golf Club in Fortuna, Calif., on May 15. San Ramon Valley's Mike Perchak advanced to the finals as an individual, shooting a 73.

Tennis

At the Discovery Bay Athletic Club on May 6, Monte Vista's Tim Lantin and Ramsey Lemaich won the NCS tennis doubles championship. They defeated Alameda's Eric Ramos and Matt Elefant, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4. Teammate Mike Starr lost the singles title in the finals to Alameda's Thai Tu, 6-4, 6-1. Starr won the singles title in 2004.

Volleyball

San Ramon Valley High avenged two regular volleyball season losses against Foothill, beating them in the semifinals of the Foothill Classic on May 6 in Pleasanton. The Wolves lost in the finals to De La Salle, 17-25, 25-22, 15-13.

The NCS playoffs begin May 16 and all

three teams will compete again.

"The team is doing pretty well," said San Ramon coach Sean Stratton. "They have all been working really hard, and it is starting to pay off. They are really showing a lot of team support and unity. With this, they are able to play a lot stronger."

"About two weeks ago, they had a two-hour team meeting, and it really created an amazing outcome," he added. "They created a mission statement that they are living up to: Play six as one, and we will get the job done."

Little League

Little League season has finally begun after several rain delays.

"The rain has hopefully stopped and games are being made up to keep the season rolling on schedule," said Scott Nelson, umpire director for the Danville Little League.

Danville has four leagues with participation by hundreds of youths, ages 5-17. They are Danville Little League, Tassajara Little League (American and National) and San Ramon Little League. The regular season begins the second week of March and ends June 1 followed by playoffs in all the leagues. ■

E-mail your results to sports@DanvilleWeekly.com or fax 837-8454.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday

Baseball

Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Swimming

EBAL Varsity Trials, Cal High

Girls Lacrosse

Monte Vista at San Ramon, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Track and Field

EBAL Finals, noon

Swimming

EBAL Varsity Finals, Cal High

Tuesday

Softball

San Ramon vs. Cal High

Wednesday

Baseball

San Ramon at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday

Softball

San Ramon at Monte Vista, 4 p.m.



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take me to the

Playing next week: **Danville International Children's Film Festival**

by Jordan M. Doronila

MOVIE

INT. THE VAN HERCK'S RESIDENCE - DAY

Afternoon. **BRENDA VAN HERCK** sinks onto her sofa in her Mediterranean home that stands at the end of Liquid Amber Court in Blackhawk. Sitting forward, she drinks bottled water and chucks down 6 pills to kill a nagging stomach virus.

MELANIE VAN HERK, her 11-year-old daughter, wears a Diablo Vista Middle School sweatshirt and runs hysterically toward her mother. She's chugging down a gallon of lime Gatorade and stands at a tilt in front of her mom.

MELANIE

(excitedly)

Mom! Mom! Mom! I want to see a movie at the Danville International Film Festival at 6!

BRENDA

You have work to do. Have you finished doing 100 practice problems for the pre-SATs? Have you done the 200 exercises for pre-Algebra that I assigned to you? Have you finished reading Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment," Tolstoy's "War and Peace" and Conrad's "Heart of Darkness?"

Brenda catches her breath and sips from her water bottle.

BRENDA (continuing)

And what about soccer practice tomorrow morning? You need your rest to do well in practice. And don't forget you're babysitting and you're volunteering at the homeless shelter, dancing in Swan Lake the next day and taking that budget workshop for middle-schoolers afterward. Do you have enough time?

Melanie jumps and flails her arms about as she stares down her mother.

MELANIE

C'mon, Mom! I can do all those things! I've got to go, serious!

BRENDA

OK. You talked me into it. Let's go!

The founders of the Danville International Children's Film Festival, which is in its third year, hope all local parents enjoy watching movies with their kids during the event May 19-21.

The annual festival will present more than 75 films made for and by children. It has brought more than 4,500 people to view independent films during the last two years as well as attend special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors, and an awards ceremony.

Patrons can see films in three Danville venues: the Danville Community Center, the Village Theatre and Town Meeting Hall.

Among the films nominated for awards are "The Lost Princess" for Best Picture; "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dumpling" for Best Mini-Short; "Santa's Camels" for Best Animation; and "The Reason for Living" for Best Documentary.

The awards will be presented at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at the Village Theatre. Winners of the festival in Danville, as well as those of the California Independent Film Festival that took place Oct. 25-29 in Livermore, will showcase their work in Japan in September.

The festival is the only one of its kind in the Western United States and is presented by the California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville, said Tim Neeley, film festival director.

"It has now become a Danville tradition," said Neeley. Danville is a children's place, he added.

"I have three kids," said Leonard Pirkle, the festival's co-founder, who is a lawyer and a Danville resident. "We were thinking, 'Gee, how do we expand our potential for viewership? It just made sense.'"

"We wanted to gear to something toward family and kids," Pirkle added.

The festival allows young filmmakers to receive constructive criticism from a combination of peers and professionals, which will help them improve their skills while giving them valuable real-life experience, said Neeley. And there are films for grown-ups, such as "MaxiDoodles: Behind the Makeup."

"We also hope that this festival will spark more of an interest in youth-produced film and to recognize excellence in children's filmmaking," he said.

The special guest for this year's Children's Film Festival will be Roseanne Barr. Best known for her performance as a hard-working mother on the Emmy Award winning television series Roseanne, Barr will be presented with the 2006 Danville International Children's Film Festival Humanitarian Award for her work on the television series.

The former television mom will present her new project, "Rocking with Roseanne: Calling all Kids," at the festival's opening Gala at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19. The 40-minute short blends live action and animation

to create a genre-jumping sing-along that is expected to have kids dancing in their seats.

After her project's opening night screening, she will take questions from the screening audience.

Additionally, Disney's "Home on the Range," which featured Barr as the voice Maggie in the animated feature, will be presented.

"She wants to see the kids," said Neeley. "She's really looking forward to the festival."

"We are very fortunate with the town of Danville," said Derek Zemrak, a founder of the California Independent Film Festival and co-founder of the Danville event. "It helped co-produce the event."

The California Independent Film Festival has been going on for eight years, said Zemrak. He said the films are now shown in the city's wineries.

"I started small," he said. "I basically some friends who went to the film school in the East Bay, there was no place to show the films." He said first his friends rented a hall in Pleasanton and showcased 35 films. They also tried the Pleasanton Hilton, a venue in Berkeley and a couple of years ago at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek before having success with the venue of the Livermore wineries.

Soon, his friend Pirkle heard about requests to hold a film festival in Danville from Councilwoman Millie Greenberg, who knew from his attempts to get involved in the Town Planning Commission.

"We didn't have a large family community center," said Pirkle, about the International Children's Film Fest. "It wasn't conducive to the festival environment."

So holding the Children's Film Festival in Danville seemed like a natural.

"I'd like to see it continue to grow," Pirkle said. "It's kid friendly, it's a walking environment. He said people are around the community center to attend and meet with members of the community, and they're involved."

"It exposes children to the media of film," said Zemrak. "The festival is a family event."

Plus the community is involved. "There are a lot of films about divorce and separation and getting along at school," Zemrak said. "That's what kids are dealing with today."

Zemrak said Pirkle said it needed to be a festival geared toward families and children.

Zemrak, a filmmaker himself, decided long ago to do low budget moviemaking. He wrote, directed and produced a feature entitled "Ice Cream," which the Los Angeles Times called the "best of the worst" feature films made in November 1998. He followed that up with "Bikini Planet" in 2002. He has worked on a feature length children's animated film entitled "Bongee Bear and the Kingdom of Rhythm."

Tickets for screenings and other events of the Danville International Film Festival range from \$7.50 to \$25. Purchase tickets at the Danville Community Center, 420 Main St., Danville, in person or by telephone calling 314-3400. For a complete schedule visit www.dicff.org. ■

FADE



ES

The Danville International Children's Film Festival

Comedy

- My African Giraffe
- Rusty Forkblade
- Simon Manor
- Swineman's Farm: Mr. Dog Goes to Hollywood
- The Kid Who Talked Too Much
- The Legend of Razorback
- The Lost Princess
- Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dumpling
- Happy's Last Wish
- Fist Fight
- I Am Lloyd Hamlin
- MaxiDoodles: Behind the Makeup
- Rusty Forkblade
- Donut Friday
- Dada Ji

Documentary

- A Reason For Living
- Jump
- Lieve Monster
- NWF Kids Pro Wrestling – The Untold Story
- Penguins of Antarctica
- Perilous Progress – Risking the Last Refuge of the Mono Titi
- The Best Week of the Year
- Why Shakespeare?
- Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Reel Video Contest
- Semper Eadem

Drama

- Andrew the Pirate
- Binta and the Great Idea
- Celamy

- Eternal High
- Janie
- November Guest
- Tanzmause

Animation

- Block Party
- Crooked Mick of the Speewah
- Fiddley Cat
- Heart & Mole
- Juxtaposer
- Raising Earl
- Red Planet Blues
- Santa's Camels
- Silent Fox and the Hen House
- Swinging
- The Roach Approach
- The Mane Event
- To the Old Olive Mill
- Uncle Moondog 'New Goldfish'
- Zoom Suit

Action

- Family Time With Santa
- Kids Squad Episode One
- The Matrix Re-Loaded Once More

Educational

- The Magic Pool

Horror/Thriller

- The Boarder
- The Counterpart

Music Video

- Jumpin' Frog Jubilee
- The Green Grasshopper

Ticket Prices

	Adults	Youth under 18
Opening Event and Film:	\$25	\$15
Day Pass Sat/Sun:	\$12.50	\$7.50
Sat PM Film:	\$8	\$8
All Festival Event Pass:	\$95	\$60

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Going to boot camp

Fitness program offers women a chance to shed pounds and have fun

by Kevin Zhou

As crazy as it may sound, one of the latest fads among local residents has been enrolling in boot camp. And those joining aren't troubled teenagers or military recruits. They're middle-aged women.

Founded in early 2004, the Bay Area Boot Camp has quickly gained recognition as an effective, fun fitness program for women in the area. It runs through a course of four weeks in which participants regularly meet for one-hour sessions.

Exercises include cardiovascular and strength training, calisthenics, yoga and body weight resistance training. Elements from boot camp are also incorporated into the schedule. Sit-ups, pushups, step-ups and running are all part of the plan.

Classes are taught by trained professionals.

Participants don't have to worry about repeating the same exercise over and over again. Exercise routines vary from day to day. There have even been instances where games like Simon Says are played to keep the participants actively involved.

"It changes every single week, every single time," added Carol Ann Railey, a Danville resident who enrolled in the program earlier this year. "It makes it really exciting and interesting so that it doesn't make you seem like you're doing repetitions."

Since the members' ages range from college students to 60-year-olds, there is a wide range for exercise intensity. While the program's rigor generally lies in the middle, it also offers advanced options for those who want a challenge, said the organizers.

Classes are usually small with about five to 20 people. This offers a lot of individualized attention for each student.

"The difference between our program and others is that we try to make it more like personal training," said Heather Glenn, an owner of Bay Area Boot Camp. "We meet and follow up with people attending the program, and we give them nutrition guidance. We hold them accountable. They know they have their friends and coaches waiting for them."

Working out with others also makes the entire process easier.

"It's easier to be a part of a group," said Railey. "Being a part of a group is very motivating. It creates a nice camaraderie where it doesn't feel competitive and there is a support system."

The fitness program is held outdoors. Other local studios have also seen the benefit in incorporating outdoor hikes into their programs, such as Fit Personal Fitness Studio in Danville and ShapeXpress for Women in Alamo.

The Walnut Creek Boot Camp, which is closest for Danville residents, holds classes at Heather Farm Park.

For those who are used to working out in gyms, this change of scenery provides a breath of fresh air, literally.

"The natural sounds of the environment, the overall spaciousness of being outside, using your own resistance as opposed to machines; it's a continuous activity for an entire hour," said Railey.

"It's a pretty big park," added Glenn. "It's definitely spacious. To be outside with fresh air and an intimidating area where people can chat and laugh is good."

It is important for women of all ages to continue exercising, noted Glenn. As women grow older, they begin to lose muscle mass and bone density. Resistance training helps to prevent this. A woman's metabolism also begins to slow down as early as the 20s. Exercising keeps it up. It's also important for women in child-bearing age to keep off extra weight.

At Bay Area Boot Camp, the time members spend in the program is only part of the equation. Trainers encourage their students to embrace a healthy lifestyle even after they leave the program.

"We focus on their goals, and what they're going to do at camp," said Glenn. "For those that can't come back, we try to ensure that they've thought about what they're going to do after. We outline when they are going to work out, basically goal setting. It is important for us to gear them in the right direction." ■



Elements from traditional boot camps, such as push-ups, are incorporated into cardiovascular and strength training. Women can also enjoy the sights and sounds of nature as they exercise outdoors. PHOTOS COURTESY BAY AREA BOOT CAMP

Epicure

BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL



Ethnic cuisines spice up our diets

They say “variety is the spice of life.” And one of the pleasures of living in the Bay Area is access to a broad diversity of ethnic cuisines and restaurants—Chinese, Mexican, Hawaiian, Thai, Vietnamese, Cuban, Indian, etc.—as well as interesting interpretations of what we affectionately call “California Cuisine” (which, these days, feels like all of the above). With increasingly diverse neighborhoods within Danville, I expect that more authentic ethnic restaurants will open and thrive in this area.

Most of us “foodies” and cooks are happy to foray into new cuisines in search of a memorable meal while traveling or vacationing. In fact, there’s something about being in another land that piques our dining interests and renders us spellbound by unfamiliar smells, sights and tastes of foods indigenous to a foreign culture. Maybe it’s just something about being on vacation that makes us more open to adventure however we encounter it. I know I was more eager to try dried cod fish from a vendor in San Juan, fried turtle from a roadside stand on Saint Bartholomew, or jerked pork from a kettle grill in Jamaica just because I was there and it was there after a long day as a tourist had made me ravenous for anything edible. And this theory equally applies to local wines and cocktails in various ports!

Once we experiment with an ethnic food on travel, we’re more open to exploring that cuisine back home at a local restaurant. Call it “demystifying” or simply a greater comfort level. However, many of us end our ethnic food adventures there. We rarely try cooking an ethnic meal ourselves, unless it’s the most basic of dishes—teriyaki, stir-fried veg-

etables, guacamole—or a simple recipe for an “Americanized” version of the original dish. For example, tacos are an Americanized version of burritos, the more authentic Mexican hand sandwich.

Some of my best epicurian insights have come through exploring new cuisines, in addition to expanding my range of cooking techniques, knowledge of spices and use of them to flavor foods. And, I’ve learned much about how slight differences in history, weather, agriculture and cultural nuances shape the foods of a particular region, influencing for centuries the essential ingredients and condiments employed and all celebrations involving food. Discovering similar patterns among core foods—like the role of rice in Asian and Southern Black cuisines, the use of peppers in all hot-weather regions, the efficient inclusion of lemons in Mediterranean cooking and the degree to which meat is used (or not) in agrarian regions—helps to savor the differing tastes, value the origins of foods and create dynamic meals that others will enjoy.

In an area so rich with cultural cuisines, we owe it to ourselves to delve into the world of ethnic cooking and dish up some of this international flavor for our own dining tables. With this aim in mind, Epicure will devote a dozen or so columns in the weeks ahead to specific ethnic cuisines. If you have real-life expertise in an ethnic cuisine or a special ethnic dish you’d like to share with Epicure readers, please send it to me via e-mail: epicure@danvilleweekly.com. In the meantime...Chow!

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. E-mail her at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

Attention, Epicure readers

In coming weeks, Epicure plans to run a series of columns on ethnic cuisines—Chinese, Mexican, Soul Food, etc. If you have expertise in a particular ethnic cuisine or have personal ethnic recipes to share, we’d like to hear from you. Please e-mail us at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

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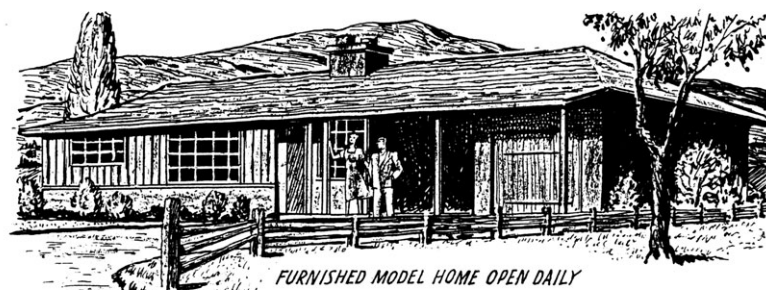
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Danville living—'50s style

During the 1950s, new subdivisions were built in Danville, including Montair, Danville Gardens, Montego, Danville Estates, Cameo Acres, Vista Grande and San Ramon Heights. The Cameo Acres homes were built from models on lots of one-fourth to one-third acres, a new type of development for the rural valley. While this flier's house price seems unbelievably low today, it was a stretch for young veterans to find the \$50 down payment.



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OF NOTE

Food drive fills pantries

The fourth annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive held April 29 collected 27,500 items, reaching more than 27,000 homes throughout the greater Tri-Valley.

Student leaders from San Ramon Valley High, Monte Vista High, Athenian, California High and Granada High in Livermore took the leadership role in coordinating food drive efforts with church groups, service clubs and Girl Scout troops. They managed and staffed the food drop sites, directed the advertising and revised the Web site. Visit www.youthfooddrive.com.

Assistance League raises a toast to tutoring

The Buena Vista Auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley held its wine tasting and auction, "A Toast to Tutoring," at Blackhawk Plaza, its showcase sponsor Saturday evening, April 29. The event was well attended by its loyal following, who bid on such items as a wooden chest filled with costumes and a teepee for children's play; a two-night stay with one round of golf for two at Pebble Beach; and a week-long stay at a villa in Umbria, Italy.

Last year's "Toast" netted \$70,000. The money

goes, along with grants and private and corporate donations, to keep alive the Buena Vista Tutorial Program, which one second-grade teacher said keeps students "emotionally connected" to the learning process. The program was founded in 1994 and has served more than 1,700 children.

Real estate for seniors

Bob Combs, who is with Alain Pinel Realtors in Danville, was recently awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) professional designation by the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council in Murphys, Calif. Seniors Real Estate Specialists help seniors make decisions about selling the family home, buying rental property, managing the capital gains and estate tax implications of owning real estate, obtaining a reverse mortgage, moving to a senior community, and other issues.

By earning the SRES designation, these agents have demonstrated they have the requisite knowledge, experience and expertise to be a Seniors Real Estate Specialist.

For information about the council, call (800) 500-4564 or visit www.seniorrealestate.com. The SRES designation was introduced in 1997 and is nationally recognized. Combs can be reached at 736-3736.

AT THE MOVIES

CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill: 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)
Cent. 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)
Hac. Cross. 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Blvd., 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 www.DanvilleWeekly.com/

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:25 a.m., 1:25, 3:55, 6:35, 9:20 p.m.
An American Haunting (PG-13)	Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 1:05, 3:20, 5:40, 8:15, 10:35 p.m.
Art School Confidential (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15 p.m.
Friends With Money (R)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8, 10:20 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:05 p.m.
Goal! The Dream Begins (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:50 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45 p.m.
Hoot (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:10 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:15 p.m.
Ice Age 2 (G)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10 p.m.
Inside Man (R)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 4:15, 7:10, 10:05 p.m.
Just My Luck (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:20, 5, 7:25, 10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 10 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05 p.m.
Kinky Boots (PG-13)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10 p.m.
Mission: Impossible III	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:45 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11, 11:45 a.m., 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:40, 3:25, 4:10, 4:55, 5:35, 6:20, 7:05, 7:50, 8:30, 9:15, 10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:30, 7, 9:50 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:50 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10, 10:30, 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10, 10:25 p.m.; No show Tues 7, 10 p.m.; DLP Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 2, 5, 8, 11 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 11 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.; Mon-Tues 2:45, 5:10, 7:45 p.m.; No show Fri 11:30 a.m.
Poseidon (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:55 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues Noon, 1:40, 2:25, 3:15, 4:05, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:15, 8:05, 8:55, 9:40, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 10 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:10, 10:40, 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 1:20, 2:30, 3:30, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:10, 8:10, 9:10, 10:10, 10:50 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun Noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:15 p.m., Mon-Tues 3, 5:20, 7:30 p.m.; No show Fri Noon
Promise (PG-13)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 9:50 p.m.
RV (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:25 p.m. Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:40 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:55 a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:25 p.m.
Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)	Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 12:45, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 10:05 p.m.
Silent Hill (R)	Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 6:50, 9:40 p.m.
Stick It (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:40 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50 p.m.
Thank You for Smoking (R)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:25 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues Noon, 2:35, 5, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.
The Sentinel (PG-13)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:40, 6:50, 9:20 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:20 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 12:55, 3:50, 6:40, 9:15 p.m.
The Wild (G)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:05 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35 p.m.
United 93 (R)	Cent. 14: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:35, 10:10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:40, 4, 7:10, 9:45 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:45 p.m. Hac. Cross. 20: Fri-Tues 10 a.m., 12:35, 3:25, 6:25, 9:15 p.m.
Water (PG-13)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10 p.m.

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May 14th



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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society
The Alamo-Danville Artists' Society will be displaying paintings by Alamo and Danville artists: Carolyn Jarvis, Mardeyn Ellis, Roz Zinns and Sandra Mortimore at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way. The offices are open on weekdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., mid-May through mid-July.

Author Visits

Calvin Trillin
To celebrate the new release of "A Heckuva of a Job," author and journalist Calvin Trillin will be talking about his book full of poetry satirizing contemporary American politics, at noon, Sunday, June 4, Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

D.B.C. Pierre
D.B.C. Pierre, winner of the Man Booker Prize for his novel, "Vernon God Little," will be talking about his new book, "Ludmilla's Broken English," at noon, Wednesday, May 17, Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Dinner with Kathryn Reiss
Come and join children's author Kathryn Reiss and the winners of the California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch, Young Writers Contest for dinner and a celebration at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19, at Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$17 for CWC members; \$20 for non-members. Contact Camille Minichino at camille@minichino.com or (510) 881-8929.

Italy: The History, People and the Art of Glassblowing
Lucia Barbini Falcone, author of "Over Bridges, Across Tables," will be talking about the flair of Murano, Italy, its people, rich history and the art of glassblowing. Falcone, born and raised in Murano, is the recipient of the Eisner Award and has received writing honors from Writer's Digest. This event will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 23, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



CHARLIE JARRETT, MEGALINE PHOTOGRAPHIC DESIGN

Who's not 'Gun Shy'?

The Role Players Ensemble Theatre and the Town of Danville are presenting "Gun Shy," a funny story about marriage, divorce, infidelity, infertility, eternal love and diets no one should try. This is the last weekend for "Gun Shy," which begins at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$13-\$22. For tickets, call 314-3463 or visit www.villagetheatreshows.com.

Skeckler at 820-5391 or visit www.danvilleareaculturalalliance.org.

Concerts

Musaic Performing 'World Voices'
Musaic, a group of men with a passion for practicing and expanding their musical talents, will perform "World Voices" at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. General admission is \$18; students/senior is \$12. Call 837-4993, ext. 15, or e-mail parish@saint-timothysdanville.org.

The Blackhawk Chorus
"Broadway Hits from the Past 100 Years" concert featuring Special Blend, Relativity and the Blackhawk Barbershoppers will benefit the Resurrection Lutheran Church. This

Three Women Poets to Read
The Century House Poetry Readings, sponsored by the city of Pleasanton Civic Arts will resume from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, June 4, Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The guest poets will be Molly Fisk, Jane Hilberry and Ryan Williams; an open mike segment will follow their readings. Cost is \$5. For information, call 931-5350 or email Michelle Russo at mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Clubs

Danville Area Cultural Alliance
The Danville Area Cultural Alliance (DACA) will have a board meeting at 7 p.m., every third Monday of the month at the Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. For information, call Paul

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concert will start at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, at the church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Advance tickets are \$15. Call 828-1580 or visit www.resluthdublin.org.

The Murasake Ensemble

The Murasake Ensemble is a musical experience of sounds unlike any other, which "reaches into the inner spirit." It will perform at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org/Jazz.

Events

16th Annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary presents the 16th annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival starting at 5 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. \$40 per person minimum foundation donation; all proceeds support community service. Call 314-8141.

Alamo Fine Art and Craft Show

Painters, jewelers, sculptors and other fine craftsmen will be gathering to display and sell their art and other creations from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday-Sunday, May 12-14, in the Alamo Plaza Shopping Center. Admission to the festival is free. For information, visit www.jhfestivals.com.

Andrew H. Young Park Rededication

The Alamo Recreation Program sponsored by Terry McDaniel Real Estate Team will present a Rededication Ceremony and Reception in honor of Andrew H. Young at 6 p.m., Monday, May 22, at the corner of Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way. For information, call Mary Piepho's office at 820-8683.

Book Club Forum

Ron Shoop of Random House will be talking about new reading ideas for book lovers and clubs from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville.

There will be free drawings. Call 837-7337. This forum, sponsored by PSC Inc., will benefit Project Second Chance, the CCC Library adult literacy program and Friends of Danville Library in cooperation with Rakestraw Books and the Danville Library.

Livermore Valley Wine Auction

Come and celebrate the spirit of the children in your community at the 12th annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction on Saturday, May 20, at the Wine Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. Call 447-WINE (447-9463) or visit www.livermorewine.com.

Mount Diablo Rose Society Speakers' Series

The Mt. Diablo Rose Society will be hosting Phil Edmunds from Edmunds Roses with a powerpoint presentation, "Rose Production: Where Do Those Roses Come From!" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 17, at 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Barbara Norkus at 989-1748.

Oyster Point Bike Tour

Nick Maufe will be leading a ride of Oyster Point south-east section of Mount Diablo starting at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 13, meeting at Finley Croad, Riggs Canyon, north east of Blackhawk-Camino Tassajara. The ride will take you approximately 16 miles and to a 3,000 feet elevation. Rain cancels. For information, contact Nick at 719-2504 or nickmaufe@hotmail.com.

Spring to Success Luncheon

Wardrobe for Opportunity will be hosting its 11th annual Spring to Success Luncheon to honor two Clients of the Year with a silent auction, award ceremony, drawings and a fabulous lunch from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, May 19, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. Jessica Aguirre from ABC 7 will MC the ceremony. Cost is \$75. Call (510) 463-4100, ext. 1, or visit www.wardrobe.org.

Spring-tober Fest

Alamo Rotary presents Spring-tober Fest including music, dancing and Bavarian food from 4-8 p.m., Sunday, June 4 at St. Isidore's Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Mark Kahn Jewelers or by calling 820-6847.

Telescopes as Time Machines

Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society will host Experience Telescopes as Time Machines, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20, meeting at the park, Lower Summit lot, Mt. Diablo Summit Museum. Plan to enter the North/South Gates by 6:45 p.m. Leader Jim Head can be contacted at outreach@mdas.net.

Walking Tours of Historic Danville

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley docents will lead tours of historic buildings and sites in Danville. Danville Mayor Stepper will lead walking tours starting at 6:15 p.m., every fourth Friday, May-August, meeting in front of the Village Theater, 233 Front St. Museum docents will lead morning tours starting at 10 a.m., every second Saturday, May-Aug., meeting in front of the museum, 205 Railroad Ave. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org.

Exhibits

Quilting Through the Years Exhibit

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in partnership with The Quilter's Inn will be showing a collection of historic and contemporary quilts created by talented local quilters until May 27. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the old Depot, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org.

'Visions of Youth' Art Exhibit

The Kiwanis Club, Danville Area Cultural Alliance and art teachers around the county will host an art show celebrating the work of students from kindergarten through seniors in high school. The work will be on display from May 6-June 2, at the Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. There will also be a closing reception

to honor the exhibitors from 3-5 p.m., Friday, June 2, at the gallery.

Fundraisers

Best Martini Contest

Level Vodka by Absolut and the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa present the seventh annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest to benefit Project Second Chance. This event is from 6-8 p.m., Monday, June 19, at the hotel, 3287 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Generations in Jazz will provide music while you sip martinis and watch bartenders from 14 different bars compete for two cash prizes. Tickets are \$20, available at the door only. Must be 21 to attend. Call 927-3250.

Building a Future, Road to Hope Gala

Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity will hold its annual fundraiser, "Building a Future, Road to Hope Gala," at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. The evening will include food and wine, entertainment by Bob Athayde and the Surefire Band, and a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$200 per person. Call 288-0112, ext. 19, or visit www.mtdiablohabitat.org.

Children's Film Festival

The California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville will be hosting the third annual Children's Film Festival, Friday-Sunday, May 19-21. This event will give film enthusiasts a chance to enjoy screenings of three independent films, plus attend special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors and an awards ceremony. Special guest, Roseanne Barr, will be at the Opening Night Gala with a screening of "Rocking with Roseanne: Calling all Kids" followed by a Q & A session. Tickets are on sale. Call 314-3463 or visit www.dicff.org.

Danville Open Golf Tournament

The Rotary Club of Danville will be sponsoring the Greater Danville Open Golf tournament to benefit Discovery

Center, SRV YMCA, Tri-Valley Crisis Centers and others. The day will include golf from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and cocktails and dinner from 5-9 p.m., at Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Road, Livermore. The golf package is \$225 including green fees, cart, lunch, refreshments, awards dinner and live auction. Non-golf options are available. For information, call Jeffrey Behring at 648-3829.

Home Garden Tour

Danville Alamo Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be hosting a Home Garden Tour from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation which supports aspiring female scholars. For information contact Tena Gallagher at 837-0826 or gardentour@aauw-da.org.

Kitchen & Garden Tour

Greenbrook and Baldwin elementary schools are hosting a Neighborhood Kitchen & Garden Tour, from 1-5 p.m. (check-in begins at 12:45 p.m.), Sunday, May 21, starting at Greenbrook School, 1475 Harlan Drive, Danville. Also included with the tour will be wine, catered delights, a vendor boutique and a silent auction, hosted by WineStyles and the Peasant & the Pear. Tickets bought in advance are \$30; \$35 on the day of the event. Visit www.ges.srvusd.k12.ca.us/kitchengardentour.html.

Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair

Hats Off America will be hosting its third annual Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, at the grass field at the corner of Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon, San Ramon. This event raises money to provide support to families of fallen soldiers. Admission is free. Call Sparky George at 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

Personal Sanctuaries Spring Garden Tour

Personal Sanctuaries will be hosting a Garden Tour to benefit Breast Cancer Research, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 20. Tickets with a map and information about each garden can be bought in advance for \$25 at Artscape, 1161 Alpine Road, Walnut Creek, or by calling Marsha at 944-5173. Tickets bought the day of the tour are \$30. For information, call 944-5173.

Holidays

Mother's Day Hike

Jennifer House of Save Mount Diablo will lead a Mother's Day hike at 8 a.m., Sunday, May 14, meeting at the Macedo Ranch Staging Area, north end of Green Valley Road, Alamo. The hike will take you to one of the few places where you can see three

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Kids & Teens

Kids Day

Comerica Bank along with the Danville police and fire departments will celebrate kids safety awareness, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at the bank, 318 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville. There will be a special appearance by the Oakland A's mascot, Stomper, from 11 a.m.-noon along with free balloons, drawings and a fingerprinting station. This event is free. Call 837-2365.

Outdoor Adventure Faire & Fishing
In partnership with California Fish & Game and East Bay Regional Parks District, Christ's Kids Sports Ministry

will be giving children ages 5-13 an opportunity to learn about the sport of fishing from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 13. There will also be an Outdoor Adventure Faire including game booths, a climbing wall and much more from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton. All registered children will receive a free lunch and shirt. Call Peter at 719-1950 or visit www.christkidsports.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Bonsai Basics Workshop

Join founder of the Diablo Bonsai Club, Kunitoshi Akabane, for a workshop on the shaping and pruning techniques of bonsai. This event will begin at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Attendees will be entered in a drawing to win a free bonsai tree.

Guide For Making The Right Sales

eBig's Sales and Marketing SIG will present "All I Need Now is... MORE SALES!" from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at University of Phoenix, 7901 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Cost is free to eBIG members; \$10 for non-members. Call 577-8454 or visit www.ebig.org.

Lead Group for B2B Business Developers

This event will include instruction on the development of your business and will be from 7:45-10 a.m., Thursday, May 18, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. Cost is free; \$40 for non-members, including breakfast. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm.

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Literary Events

Free Book Club Forum Series

Presented in cooperation with Rakestraw Books, Project Second Chance will resume its free Book Club Forum series at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Ron Shoop of Random House will be presenting a list of exciting book titles. Call 927-3250.

Miscellaneous

County Arts Seeks Nominations

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County seeks nominations for Achievement Awards for individuals and organizations whose work in the arts has had a huge impact. Candidates may be nominated in performing, visual, literacy, education administration and philanthropic arts fields. Deadline for nominations is June 30; honorees will be announced in July. Applications and information can be found by calling 646-2278 or visiting www.ac5.org.

Nominations Needed for California History Teacher of the Year

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for the California History Teacher of the Year award. The winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, a core archive of history books, and materials for their school library. The deadline is Monday, May 15. For information, contact Jack Bareilles at (707) 839-6492 or humboldtcountyhistory@hotmail.com.

On Stage

'Alice in Wonderland'

Monte Vista High School Theater will present "Alice in Wonderland" with high-tech light shows and hand-made costumes, Wednesday-Friday, May 24-26, in the school's Al Gentile Theater, 3131 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$8; \$5 for children and students. For information, call Vicki Stadelhofer at 552-2878.

Danville Ballet Spring Performance
The Danville Ballet Company along

with students from Ballet and Theatre Arts are presenting "Spring Performance 2006," starting at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 12; and 2 and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The performers will dance Act I and Act II of the ballet La Bayadere. Tickets are available from the Civic Arts Box Office; \$22 for adults and \$20 for seniors and children under 12. All seats reserved. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

'Footloose'

St. Joan of Arc LIGHT Youth Ministry will open the Broadway musical "Footloose," at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 12-13 and at 6 p.m., Sunday, May 14, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the church or online at www.sjasr.org.

'The Typographer's Dream'

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service is presenting "The Typographer's Dream" by Adam Bock. Encore Theatre Company of San Francisco will give the play at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 21, in the Old Barn at Tao House. Tickets are \$20; call 820-1818. Ticket price includes transportation to Tao House via Park Service van since private vehicles are not allowed.

'Wigged Out!'

Victoria's Hair on Stage is proud to present the musical comedy, "Wigged Out!" featuring Desperate Housewives, the CSI guys, Anna Nicole Smith, Michael Jackson and many more. Performances start at 7 and 9 p.m., Saturdays, May 13, 20, 27 and June 3, 10, 17 and 24. Proceeds benefit Hats Off America. Wine and beer bar available; no one under 21 admitted. Tickets are \$40. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) for tickets.

Seniors

Special Issues for Seniors Affected by Cancer

Learn about the latest ways of treating seniors with cancer while weighing the quality of life issues and health factors with Robert Robles, MD, from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free to cancer patients, their families and friends, but reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors

Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1936 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$25 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040.

Spiritual

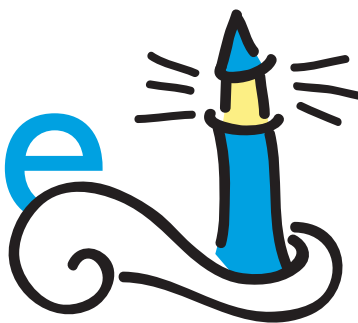
Celebrate Jewish Women

Chabad of Contra Costa Women's Circle will host Celebrate the Jewish Women with a delectable dinner catered by Milk and Honey of L.A., fine wines, goody bags and Chassidic scholar and speaker Shimonah Tzukernik. This event is from 5:30-9 p.m., Monday, May 15, at Walnut Creek Marriott, 2355 N. Main St. The cost is \$60. RSVP to Shtrernie Kagan at 209-1373.

Volunteering

Sheriff Seeks Senior Volunteers

The Sheriff's Valley Station Office in Alamo is seeking people interested in assisting law enforcement in the community. Citizens should have a clean criminal history and would be responsible for one shift a week for four-and-a-half hours. Interested applicants should call James Hogan or Elmer Glasser at 837-2902.



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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-155
- **FOR SALE**
200-270
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-355
- **JOBS**
510-585
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-690
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE**
801-860

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Chronic Pain Support Group

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

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Saturday, May 13, 9-2
Look for the balloons!

Many Homes! Maps available at corner of El Capitan & Mustang (Sycamore Valley Rd to Camino Ramon, left on El Capitan)

HUGE 40 Family Garage Sale
Sat 5/20 8am-1pm
Pleasanton YMCA Preschool
Corner of First & Bernal

PLEASANTON, 3245 Sylvan Ct, Sat 5/13, 8-2

Pleasanton, 5038 Carducci Drive, May 13, 10am-3pm

Pleasanton, 5177 Springdale Avenue, May 13, 2006

Small TV, boy's 20" bike, hamster cage gear, darkroom enlarger, books, Legos, twin bed frame (wooden), records, From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., No Early Birds Please.

Pleasanton, 527 Tannet Court, May 20, 8-4

Moving Sale. Men, women, & teen girl clothes. Lawn mower. Items from every room. Cabinets, book shelves. More! No early birds, please.

Pleasanton, 5999 Bryce Canyon Ct, May 13, 8-1
Garage Sale: furniture, household, toys, games

Pleasanton, 919 Rose Avenue, Sat. May 13th, 9-4:30

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antique garden bench \$40
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Upright Freezer - \$100

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245 Miscellaneous

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Pet of the Week

Butterball in May
Though it's not Thanksgiving, this handsome fellow named "Buster" is definitely a butterball. He probably weighs at least 16 pounds. Buster is 4 years old, neutered and very affectionate. He loves to be brushed and petted. When you pet him he pushes his head into your hand asking for more. Buster needs a quiet home as he is frightened by loud noises and he'll hide under the bed if too much commotion is going on. Get to know Buster better by visiting him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



Catherine Hansen Rush

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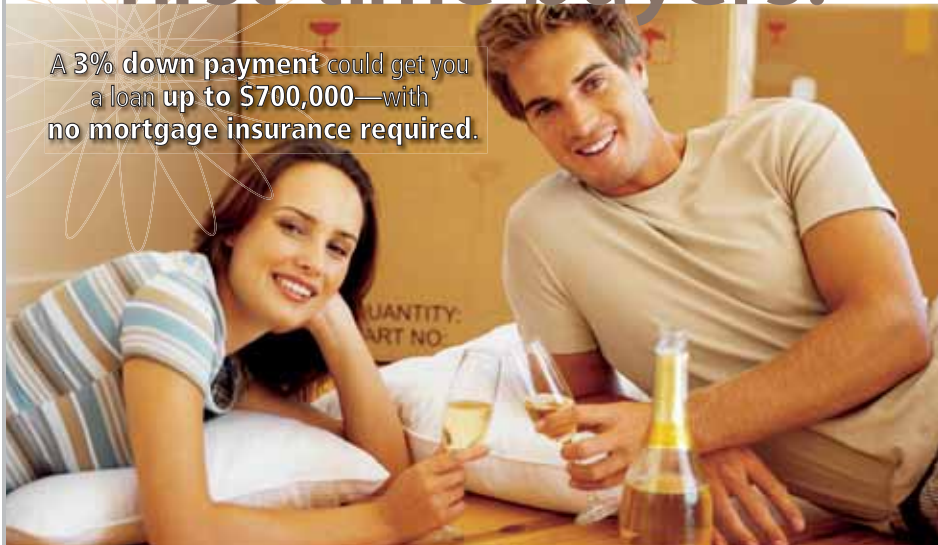
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Real Estate

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 19	Total sales reported: 6	Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: \$500,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,250,000	Lowest sale reported: \$370,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,650,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,195,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,350,000
Average sales reported: \$1,165,842	Average sales reported: \$1,706,333	Average sales reported: \$783,926

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
5 Anthurium Court Nakazato Trust to M. Ibrahim for \$849,000	3 Rainbow Circle A. Wright to T. Auer for \$710,000	553 Verona Avenue G. & K. Zilk to B. & P. Gardner for \$1,425,000
2080 Fostoria Circle L. Heinig to X. Odell for \$500,000	1841 Ridgeland Circle H. Hsu to D. Trimble for \$710,000	910 Escondido Court Wilkins Trust to Begun Trust for \$1,250,000
221 Heather Place P. Duggan to M. Murphy for \$900,000	5 San Carlo Court Vilas Trust to D. & S. Jones for \$765,000	2060 Pebble Drive Hu Trust to Chan Trust for \$1,688,000
220 Manchester Street Melin Trust to R. & L. O'Connor for \$1,250,000	1121 San Ramon Valley Boulevard R. Tsang to P. & M. Wynacht for \$572,500	1397 Pine Tree Drive T. & T. Auer to W. & G. Hunt for \$1,300,000
21 Mauri Court Graham Trust to Beedle Trust for \$1,288,500	124 San Thomas Way Smith Trust to M. Romero for \$800,000	407 Red Wing Drive Vitale Trust to M. & M. Wenzel for \$1,650,000
21 Meadow Lake Drive Montkarl Limited to B. & H. Melin for \$2,650,000	209 South Ridge Court E. & L. Wells to S. & H. Sweet for \$2,500,000	3149 Stonegate Drive Hulburd Trust to H. & B. Tan for \$2,195,000
211 Milwaukee Place Jackson Trust to A. Qi for \$1,000,000	571 Sycamore Circle Spinner Trust to B. Mascioli for \$515,000	25 Woodland Drive Zouzounis Trust to Saha Trust for \$2,155,000
3742 Old Blackhawk Road Gompertz Trust to M. & T. Becker for \$2,350,000	421 Sycamore Hill Drive E. & J. Searle to Olton Trust for \$655,000	
4307 Quail Run Place Sirva Relocation to L. & G. Steinberg for \$1,301,000		



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Terry Gilliam

Senior Loan Consultant

As Senior Loan Consultant, Terry can help you with your home financing, out-of-state lending, refinances, and help you build wealth through intelligent real estate investing.

Terry is a licensed real estate professional and most recently served as branch manager of Ameriworld Mortgage in Vacaville. He is an experienced real estate investor who owns properties in California and Arizona. Known for his ability to obtain alternative financing for second homes, investment homes and equity share arrangements, he can find the right loan for each individual client.

Terry's network of real estate sales professionals throughout California and the hottest investment markets out of state can help you find just the right home or investment property. As an expert in real estate financing, Terry can help you find the loan program that best suits your budget and financial goals.

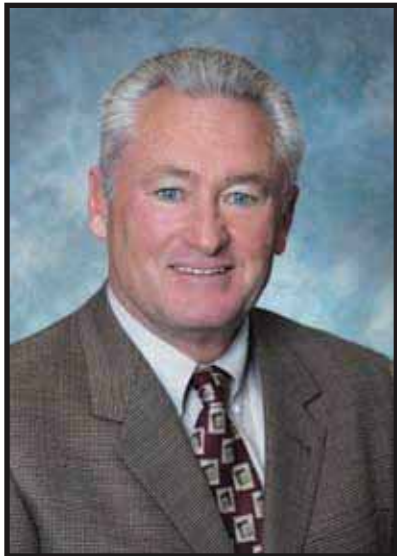
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NorthPoint Real Estate Investment Services Is Proud to Announce the Newest Members of Our Team ...



Rusty Anderson

Senior Vice President

Rusty Anderson, also known as Coach Anderson, is one of the best-known, most-trusted and well-respected names in the mortgage industry. With more than 26 years experience as a mortgage broker, and being a long-time resident of Pleasanton, Rusty has earned the respect and admiration of both his peers, clients, and local affiliates. Rusty has helped thousands of clients with their home financing needs.

Rusty comes to NorthPoint from Diversified Capital Funding where he was a top-producing loan officer specializing in creative financing. He will continue to serve his clients as a loan consultant, as well as help them plan for wealth-building through intelligent real estate investing.



Terry Gilliam

Senior Loan Consultant

Terry is a licensed real estate professional and most recently served as branch manager of Ameriworld Mortgage in Vacaville. He is an experienced real estate investor who owns properties in California and Arizona. Known for his ability to obtain alternative financing for second homes, investment homes and equity share arrangements, he can find the right loan for each individual client.

Terry's network of real estate sales professionals throughout California and the hottest investment markets out of state can help clients find just the right home or investment property. As an expert in real estate financing, Terry helps find the loan program that best suits his clients budget and financial goals.



Tony Locy

Senior Vice President

Mortgage industry veteran, Tony Locy, who is recognized throughout California as one of the most prolific and accomplished loan officers and home mortgage specialists, has joined NorthPoint as Senior Vice President. He comes to NorthPoint from Stonecastle Land & Home Financial where he was a top-producing loan officer, specializing in purchase loan transactions and refinance loans.

Tony has attained a deep respect among both his clients and peers for having established himself as an expert in home mortgages. After spending 18 years in the mortgage industry, he will play an instrumental part in helping his clients with their home financing needs, as well as help them plan for wealth-building through intelligent real estate investing.

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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Danville

2 Bedrooms

216 Garden Creek Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$495,950 977-8965
1081 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$499,950 855-4075
658 Morninghome Rd. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$625,000 855-4075
2198 Shoshone Cir. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$700,000 984-1787

3 Bedrooms

4049 Skylark Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$644,500 968-1452
216 Jewel Terr. Sat 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$674,950 200-0525
4 Danville Oak Pl. Sat 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$689,000 413-1068
305 West Meadows Ln. Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Heritage	\$732,950 577-0525
218 Matteson Ct. Sat 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$819,950 855-4075
434 Winfield Ln. Sat 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$829,000 217-5050
208 Promenade Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$839,500 699-3527
42 Casablanca St. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$844,900 963-2043
27 Nob Hill Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$850,000 362-0460
122 Freesia Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	\$919,000 831-3343

4 Bedrooms

605 Ambience Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,079,000 323-6735
269 Jasmine Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$1,099,000 217-5017
3845 Sheffield Cir. Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA	\$1,124,900 734-5000
591 Bridgewater Rd. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,135,000 830-3999
403 Laurel Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$1,299,000 855-4141
851 Buckingham Pl. Sun 1-3 p.m. Intero	\$1,333,333 785-8625
214 Sabina Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,400,000 362-0460
576 Del Amigo Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$3,985,000 217-5048
605 Glasgow Cir. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$960,000 519-6838
108 St. Edwards Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$979,000 323-6735
230 Jasmine Wy. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker	\$Upon request 831-3366

5 Bedrooms

1085 Yorkshire Pl. Sat/Sun 2-5 p.m. Intero	\$1,329,000 286-7087
15 Discovery Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,625,000 838-1117
8 Mrack Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Windermere	\$2,400,000 922-0822
37 Lily Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$949,000 833-1822

Alamo

2 Bedrooms

140 Alamo Sq. Sun 2-4 p.m. Re/Max	\$Upon request 989-6086
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4 Bedrooms

1456 Paseo Nogales Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,200,000 362-0460
117 Samantha Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,499,950 362-0460
23 Scripps Haven Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$1,499,950 998-3098

Alamo

5 Bedrooms

94 Park Meadow Ct. Sun 1-5 p.m. Intero	\$1,295,000 855-4014
1427 Vine Ln. Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire	\$3,195,000 998-3098

Blackhawk

3 Bedrooms

11 Deer Meadow Ct. Sun 2-4:30 p.m. Blackhawk	\$1,298,000 736-4155
--	--------------------------------

4 Bedrooms

311 Live Oak Dr. Sun 1-4 p.m. Heritage	\$1,299,000 577-0525
388 Live Oak Dr. Sun 2-4:30 p.m. Blackhawk	\$1,489,000 736-4155

Walnut Creek

2 Bedrooms

18 Iron Horse Ln. Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Intero	\$629,900 487-2629
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3 Bedrooms

475 Le Jean Wy. Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Intero	\$830,000 855-4105
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4 Bedrooms

1942 Highridge Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell	\$859,990 339-3500
10 Arabian Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$949,000 899-7653

Pleasanton

1 Bedrooms

7580 Canyon Meadows Sun 1-4 p.m. Windermere	\$398,000 922-0822
---	------------------------------

2 Bedrooms

1590 Calle Enrique Fri 6-9 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$519,999 800-362-6257
5102 Angelico Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell TV	\$724,950 200-2602

3 Bedrooms

3170 Pawnee Wy. Sat 1-4 p.m. Gold Star	\$474,900 200-0827
5119 Oakdale Ct. Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$639,000 819-2939
5173 Willowview Ct. Sat 1:30-4:30 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$659,000 426-3850
4319 Holland Dr. Sat 1-4 p.m. Century 21	\$699,950 846-7997
3124 Weymouth Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero	\$719,800 997-1994
4024 Fairlands Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams	\$739,950 594-0357
3154 Boardwalk St. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$817,500 600-7653
7866 Marigold Ct. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Pacific Union GMAC	\$839,900 876-1669
4719 Golden Rd. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell TV	\$889,950 200-2602
4105 Pleasanton Ave. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$939,500 846-6500

4 Bedrooms

7408 Sundrop Ct. Sun 1-5 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$1,024,999 800-362-6257
2547 Larrikeet Ct. Sat 12-5 p.m. Re/Max Accord	\$1,060,000 730-5262
451 Trebbiano Pl. Sat 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC	\$1,299,950 426-3858
1715 Nursery Wy. Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel	\$1,429,500 846-6500
9623 Crosby Dr. Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Windermere	\$1,875,000 922-0822

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Magnificent Mediterranean **\$3,350,000**
Elegant estate on one-half+/-acre backing to the 2nd hole of the Falls Golf Course. 5100+/-sf, 4bd, 5.5ba, office, gourmet kitchen with nook and more.
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Gorgeous Northridge Estates **\$2,100,000**
Updated 4bd, 3.5ba on quiet cul-de-sac. Master on first floor, plus office and bonus room. Rear yard with Pebble Tec pool, sport court, backs to open space.
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Highly Upgraded Throughout **\$1,799,000**
Highly upgrades throughout with 5bd, 4.5ba, gourmet kitchen, surround sound, custom paint finishes. Private rear yard paradise with pool, spa and more.
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BLACKHAWK

Entertainer's Dream Home **\$1,569,000**
Fabulous views from valley to Mt. Diablo. Remodeled 4bd, 3ba, 3486+/-sf, gourmet kitchen with granite slab. Golf membership available.
Michael Kwiatkowski **510.612.8008**



BLACKHAWK

Dramatic Golf Course Views **\$1,357,000**
Stunning 3bd, 2.5ba home, decorated to perfection. Beautifully remodeled slab granite kitchen, redone baths, soaring ceilings, loft, 2-car+golf cart garage.
McDougall Team **925.672.2499**



DANVILLE

Bettencourt Ranch Beauty!! **\$1,333,333**
Upgraded, style and beauty! 4bd, 3ba in gated community, with a very private and breathtaking back yard setting. Inimitable remodeled kitchen.
Lois Morris **925.785.8625**



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Best of Bettencourt Ranch **\$1,329,000**
Spacious 5bd, 3ba, 3-car garage with new carpet, hardwood & tile floors, plantation shutters and more. Master suite with fireplace.
Betsy Tan **925.855.4109**



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Absolutely Stunning! **\$1,174,000**
Gorgeous home with nice upgrades throughout, accented with designer touches. 5bd, 3ba, 1bd/1ba down, new kitchen. Private yard with amazing views.
Lisa and Greg Doyle **925.855.4046**



DANVILLE

Former Model **\$1,160,000**
Great family home with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3148+/-sf and features lots of upgrades. Conveniently located to pool, shops, and theatre.
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Danville
Blackhawk

15 Railroad Avenue
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle

925.855.4000
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