



Go teams

Danville high schools excelling in NCS championships

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Literature and life

Venture book group raps about mature issues

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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Police chief sums up 2006

Crime is down in Danville on the whole

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NO SPANKING

Alamo man's life mission is banning corporal punishment for children page 14

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Q: Is our country ready for a black president? A woman president?



I would hope the country is ready for it. I see the great potential of new and exciting candidates that bring different perspectives. It would bring new things to a traditional process.

Christine Olinger
stay-at-home mom



If they do a good job, why not? I mean if they are mature, I don't know if the gender or color means anything.

Steve Benson
mortgage consultant



Yes, I think the state of California and the nation are ready for both a black president and a woman president because people base their decision on which candidate is good rather than their gender or race.

Kelly Kaplan
mom



I don't know about the country but I am. I actually like Barack Obama. And I think Mrs. Clinton is a good candidate.

Dave Niles
construction management



I would say we are. It's about time to change things up. A black president would be really historic—that's cool. A woman, she might be more emotional but I think it would be cool. Hillary Clinton knows quite a bit about everything. I'm all for female power—but—I don't know if the nation is ready.


Jillian Rowlett
cosmetology student

COMPILED BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

ABOUT THE COVER

Alamo resident Jordan Riak, president of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education, has devoted more than 30 years of his life to getting corporal punishment out of schools and homes. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 44

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ One contingent left slamming the door. ”

—Alamo R-7A member Nancy Dommies about the disappointment some felt when the committee voted 3-2 against giving \$300,000 toward the Danville Aquatic Center. See story, page 5.

Congress at your corner

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-11th District) will be at the Camino Tassajara Safeway from 4-5 p.m. tomorrow to meet constituents. The appearance is part of a McNerney outreach program called Congress at Your Corner.

“Instead of asking community members to come to one of my offices, I am going to go to them to make it as easy as possible for them to see their member of Congress,” McNerney said. “I am committed to meeting with residents throughout the district so that I can effectively serve them and address their needs.”

Last week, McNerney launched Congress at Your Corner at a Safeway in Morgan Hill, the southernmost end of the 11th District. McNerney lives in Pleasanton and has a field office in Pleasanton as well as in Stockton.

\$10 million campaign for Athenian

The Athenian School recently kicked off its \$10 million Pillar Campaign to build a new music center, sports field and an endowment for the future. The kickoff celebration for the campaign was held at the Blackhawk Automotive Museum. Early donors have made gifts totaling \$6 million and the rest of the fundraising is planned for the next three years.

“The Pillar Campaign for the Athenian School offers an opportunity to build something of lasting value that will nurture future generations and honor (founder) Dyke Brown’s vision for this extraordinary learning community,” said Mike McCoy, a Danville resident and Athenian trustee who is chairman for the campaign.

The school has 457 students in grades 6 to 12, with a student to faculty ratio of 10:1. It provides an education “that is challenging, engaging, personal, interactive and international,” according to its press release.

‘Publicity 101’ workshop draws 18 to Danville Weekly office

Eighteen representatives from nonprofit organizations gathered at the Danville Weekly office Thursday evening, Feb. 22, to learn how to write press releases and get information into the newspaper. The workshop was tagged “Publicity 101.”

Publisher Gina Channell-Allen outlined the information that must be provided for any story in the newspaper: who, what, when, where, why and how. She also gave tips on taking a good, active photograph and how to submit it.

For information about future workshops, call 600-0840.

Learn about advances in diabetes treatment

Learning you have type 2 diabetes can be frightening. But those with the condition can still live long healthy lives. At “Advances in Diabetes treatment,” a free seminar at San Ramon Valley Medical Center this Thursday, health professionals will talk about new oral medications, risk factors, symptoms and how diabetes increases health risks. There will also be details about a recently completed diabetes prevention program study, which concluded that people with pre-diabetes can prevent it from developing by changing their eating habits and increasing physical activity.

The seminar is free and will be held 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 8, at the south conference room at 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Reservations are required; call (800) 284-2878 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

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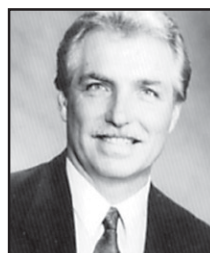
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A cameraman gathers footage at Monte Vista High School for a film about the Mustang girls soccer team, including why they play and what happens behind the scenes.



A camerawoman, one of a film crew of eight, shoots Mustang girls on the soccer field in their semifinals game against Foothill High School for the North Coast Section championship.

Finding their way through soccer

Monte Vista girls soccer film chronicles lives of players

by Jordan M. Doronila

A movie about Mustang soccer players in Danville may be coming to a theater near you.

Coach Greg Fish is producing a film about his team of girl soccer players from Monte Vista High School, and he plans to release it in theaters next year, he said.

The film is an inspiring story about young women finding their way using the sport of soccer, Fish said. It chronicles the reasons why his team plays soccer and what happens behind the scenes.

"We are hoping it's more universal," he said. "It's why they do this and what they get out of it."

He added that the film captures the

whole team bonding and has interviews of parents with kids.

His production company, Global Media Group, has collected 350 hours of footage since October. Moreover, he has eight camera professionals following and filming his team.

"We devoted some really talented (people)," he said.

A production this size may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said. He plans on taking it to a film festival in the fall.

The team defeated Foothill High School of Pleasanton at the girl's North Coast Section semifinals Feb. 21 but lost to San Ramon Valley High at the finals Saturday. ■

Weber homes a go

Planning Commission approves 22 new single-family homes

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Planning Commission gave its approval Tuesday evening for Davidon Homes to build 22 single-family residential homes on the 15-acre Weber estate in Danville.

The commissioners unanimously approved the developer's proposal to build the houses plus remove 26 trees to erect the homes and donate a 3.7-acre parcel to Danville to give access to Oak Hill Park.

The Weber estate is located off Diablo Road on Hill Road, between Matadera Way and Blemer Road. It is near Monte Vista High School and Los Cerros Middle School.

More than 100 people filled the Town Meeting Hall on a cold and rainy Tuesday evening to hear the commission's decision. A handful of residents—the property's neighbors—voiced their opposition.

"It should be compatible with existing neighborhoods," said neighbor James Simpson. "I don't see how this is compatible."

"There are going to be absolutely less views," he added. "If it's up to me, I would just way leave it the way it is."

Nonetheless, the commissioners said Davidon Homes followed Danville's 2010 General Plan and worked with the town in creating a project that benefits the community. Davidon owns the property and submitted the application to the town in 2004.

"We have to look at the property a little differently," said Commissioner Robert Storer. "The property does have owners, and we have to look at their rights."

"We are not going to please everybody,"

Storer added. "The process does work. This project meets the intent of the general plan."

"It's a pretty good project," said Commissioner Robert Combs.

At the meeting, Davidon Homes executive Jim Thayer said he will build a road between Matadera Way and Blemer Road, which would alleviate traffic congestion during school peak hours.

The basic homes would range from 3,900 to 5,100 square feet. They would be built in various styles: Spanish, French Country, Tuscan, Traditional and Cottage Elementary.

Thayer has done professional traffic studies and other consultative work with the town to make sure the development fits in well with the community, he said.

Still, some residents believed traffic congestion, loss of privacy, flood problems and removal of trees would be issues. A few said the project would negatively impact their property values.

However, town staff believes Thayer's traffic studies are most likely accurate, and his project would ease traffic around the neighborhood.

"Little things are being made as huge things," Thayer said.

"I think this is a comprehensive plan," said former Planning Commissioner Tom Moran. "The architecture is wonderful. I think the presentation clearly demonstrates sensitivity to the general plan."

The property is home to the last remaining Weber sister, Lucille Weber. Neighbor Kristen Trisko said Lucille had willed her property to the Salvation Army who in turn took her to court to take title before she died. ■

Alamo OKs aquatic funds

Steering committee had hoped for more than \$200,000

by Natalie O'Neill

The Alamo R-7A Parks and Recreation Committee agreed last week to contribute \$200,000 to an aquatic center at San Ramon Valley High School over the next five years.

The Danville Aquatic Center Steering Committee proposed \$300,000 over five years, but some R-7A members found that figure too high, considering the recreation center will be built outside the Alamo area.

"It's a balancing act—in the end we need to have enough to represent all groups. Giving any more than that wouldn't have been responsible," said R-7A member Marianne Sasso.

Members from the aquatic steering committee had mixed feelings about the decision.

"We came away feeling pretty good, but we strongly disagree with their logic," said Tom Dewar, of the steering committee.

The pool will be immensely beneficial to all Alamo residents, Dewar said, whether it is located near Alamo or within Alamo boundaries.

The pool will be used for Alamo high school students who attend SRVHS, along with members of club aquatic sports teams. Any resident who wants to participate in

open swim time, water aerobics and other water recreation will have access to the aquatic center as well—before and after school hours and during the summer.

"It may not be in our area, but our kids go to that school," said R-7A Chairman Steve Mick, who supported contributing \$300,000 to the pool.

About 50 people crowded into the Swain House at Hap Magee Ranch at the past two committee meetings to show support for the contribution. Alamo residents stated their personal needs for the pool and some came to silently show their support.

The first motion, to put forward \$300,000, was voted down 3 to 2, which prompted the crowd to respond with sounds of disappointment and aggravation.

"One contingent left slamming the door. You could hear it and feel it," said R-7A member Nancy Dommies, who wholeheartedly supported the full contribution.

Other R-7A members, however, felt funding the aquatic center didn't line up with the committee's major priority: to focus on parks and recreational programs for a specific group of Alamo taxpayers.

"A question that was never answered was what percentage of people from the R-7A area are on those swim teams," said committee member Marie-Jeanne Parsons.

The committee also has to take into

► Continued on page 9

Police chief says crime is down

Commercial burglaries, car thefts, strong armed robberies and shoplifting are up

by Jordan M. Daronila

The Danville Police Department has seen a reduction of crimes in the community this past year, according to its annual report.

Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel gave a presentation on his department's 2006 annual report to the Town Council at its meeting Feb. 20.

The department has 30 police

officers for the Danville population of 43,000. Wenzel said his staff's desire to do quality police work, and the support it receives from the town have kept Danville safe.

"The community is involved," he said. "The town is totally involved."

"We all work together," he added. "It's a total team concept."

The total number of "part one" crimes, which include burglary, homicide, robbery and theft, has decreased by more than 60. In

2006, the total number of part one offenses was 518, which was 88 less than in 2005.

Residential burglaries, aggravated assault and bicycle thefts have also decreased. In addition, thefts such as purse snatching and pick-pocketing have gone down substantially, from 180 in 2005 to 79 in 2006.

On the other hand, some crimes have increased, such as commercial burglaries, car thefts, strong armed robberies and shoplifting. Moreover, calls regarding disturbing the peace, and being drunk in public have grown in number.

From 2005 to 2006, commercial burglary calls have gone from 37 to 44; thefts from locked cars have increased from 71 to 90; and thefts from unlocked cars have increased from 118 to 133. Shoplifting has gone up from 42 calls to 47, and strong armed robbery has increased from four calls to nine. The use of a threat is involved in strong armed robbery.

Also the number of calls for child abuse, uncontrollable juveniles and possession of controlled substances has been reduced, according to the report. Trespassing has decreased as well.

Wenzel said his staff has focused on abating certain crimes, and sometimes there is not enough manpower to concentrate on quelling all offenses to the fullest extent.

Nonetheless, crimes such as residential burglaries have gone down, according to the report.

"We did a good job of taking people off the streets so they wouldn't do any additional crimes," said Danville Sgt. Troy Craig. ■

Contact Jordan M. Daronila at jdaronila@DanvilleWeekly.com

Calls to Danville Police Department

TYPE OF CALL	2006	2005	2004
Checks Non-sufficient Funds	6	5	15
Child Abuse	1	5	1
Civil	313	227	251
Disturbing the Peace	1,346	1,359	1,386
Drunk in Public	77	51	55
Embezzlement	11	4	9
Forgery-Fraudulent Documents	27	26	40
Found Property	120	139	125
Fraud Credit Card	49	35	23
Identity Theft	74	38	39
Indecent Exposure	11	3	12
Litter	21	22	21
Lost Property	120	106	137
Mentally Ill Commitment	60	56	60
Minor in Possession of Alcohol	6	14	10
Missing Person	44	27	38
Missing/Runaway Juvenile	46	100	45
Motorist Assist	79	74	118
Outside Assist	781	764	686
Patrol Request	1,755	1,537	1,697
Phone Harass	23	29	39
Possession of Controlled Substance	28	45	58
Possession of Dangerous Drug			
Paraphernalia	3	2	6
Possession of Marijuana less than 1 oz	0	0	8
Public Nuisance	72	68	76
Service to Citizen	4,418	4,379	3,950
Suspicious Circumstances	1,245	1,385	1,338
Trespass	52	46	37
Uncontrollable Juvenile	13	28	16
Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance	14	7	18
Felony Vandalism	37	39	23
Violation of Court Order/Custody Order	34	22	42
Violation of Probation	23	17	11
Warrant Service/Arrest	100	144	164

Source: Danville Police Department

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These kids have Street Smarts

Poster contest ceremony draws talented students and families

Sycamore Valley Elementary School third-grader Sarah Joo wowed the judges and won the grand place award in the 3-5 grade level of the Show Us Your Street Smarts poster contest this year.

The third annual poster contest awards ceremony drew a crowd of nearly 500 people, including more than 200 students, to the Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon on Feb. 22.

The contest is sponsored by the Troy and Alana Pack Foundation, San Ramon Rotary and other com-

munity sponsors. More than 275 posters focused on traffic safety issues, such as safe driving in bad weather and in crowded school parking lots.

Other poster winners were Quail Run Elementary School second-grader Patricia R. Militante, grand place award for K-2; Quail Run second-grader Saket Agashe and John Baldwin Elementary fifth-grader Tom Raible, first place; San Ramon students Jazlyn H. Luu and Karin Horikoshi, second place; David Eddy of Danville and

Timothy Yao of San Ramon, third place.

The winning posters were picked by foundation board members Bob and Carmen Pack, Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky, San Ramon Valley Unified School District Trustee Bill Clarkson and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson. Street Smarts is a partnership between the cities, the school district, the county and the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs.

Winning artwork can be viewed at www.streetSMARTS-srv.com

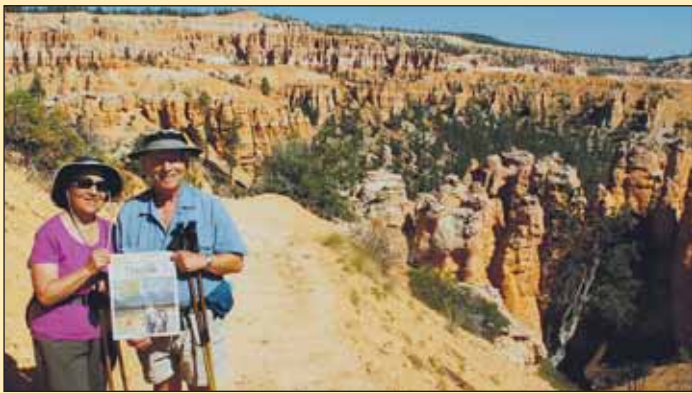
—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



Sycamore Valley Elementary School third-grader Sarah Joo is the grand place award winner for the 3-5 grade level category of this year's Street Smarts Poster Contest.

STREET SMARTS PROGRAM

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Hiking adventure

Vera and Zebi Kerekas visit Bryce Canyon with their Weekly, on a hiking trip in September that included Zion, the north rim of the Grand Canyon and Arches National Park.

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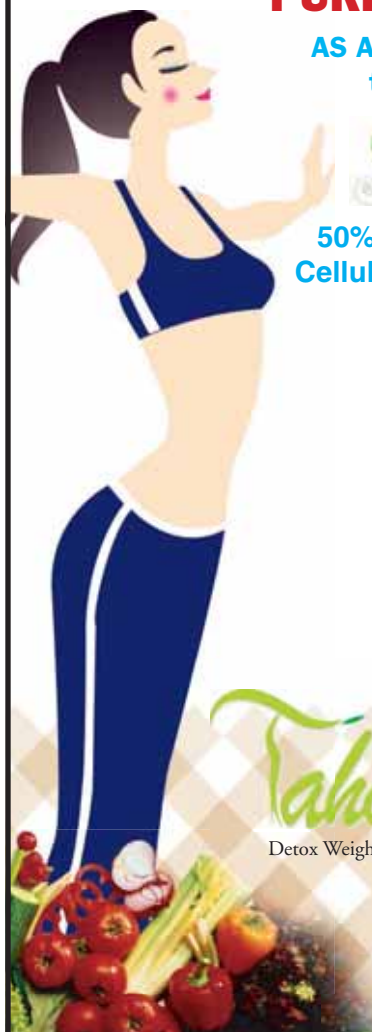
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Hero fest to celebrate living clean

Teens to share the power of living free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco

by Jordan M. Doronila

Teenagers may find inspiration at the Youth to Youth Middle School Conference next week by sharing, learning and laughing together.

The San Ramon Valley Community Against Substance Abuse will be holding its 13th annual Y2Y Conference at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville on March 10. This year's theme is "Herost. The Power is Yours!" with high school leaders—heros—whose lives are successful and who believe in the power of being free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

"It's fabulous," said Terry Koehne, district spokesman. "It's

peer driven. Kids get energized by other kids."

The all-day event takes place from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students. More than 20 workshops will be offered throughout the day by the high school leaders, and the day will end with a dance.

Approximately 400 middle and high school students will be attending. More than 80 high school students from Danville, Alamo and San Ramon will be working at the conference. Also, school administrators, community and service groups, and law enforcement agencies will be attending.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Pack Foundation, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, the Town of Danville, the city of San Ramon and Discovery Counseling Center.

"It's a way for kids to get exposed

to extremely healthy alternatives," Koehne said. "They attend workshops. They do small groups. They do skits."

"(It's) a full day of education and healthy fun," he added.

Youth to Youth started in 1995. It was one of the pioneers in youth driven, "no-use" message and drug prevention programming at a time when other programs were supporting "responsible use." Since 1982, three U.S. presidents, including current President Bush, have recognized the conference's achievements.

Registration forms are available at all the middle schools or online at srvcasa.org. The cost is \$30 through March 3, and \$40 after that date or at the door. For more information call CASA Project Director Kimberly Gallagher at 838-0663. ■

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at jdoronila@DanvilleWeekly.com

Dentist gets two years for tax fraud

Offshore bank accounts lead Danville dentist to prison

by Jordan M. Doronila

A Danville dentist was sentenced last week to two years in prison for tax evasion and fraud.

Roy Albert Lewis was sentenced by San Francisco U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston on Friday, Feb. 23.

"Tax evasion is a crime, and people who engage in it pay a steep price," said Eileen J. O'Connor, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Tax Division. "The Department of Justice and the IRS continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute taxpayers who harm the federal Treasury and all honest taxpayers."

After his prison term expires, Lewis must serve a three-year supervised release.

A jury found him guilty in August of tax evasion and conspiring to defraud the United States.

Investigators from the Justice Department found in 1995 that Lewis became a client of Tower

Executive Resources, an organization from Denver that promoted a tax evasion scheme involving the use of false invoices and secret offshore bank accounts.

His medical practice paid bogus expenses to Tower, aiming to generate false tax deductions, according to the Justice Department. Tower then deposited the bulk of the funds into a secret offshore bank account that Lewis controlled.

Over 10 years, Lewis sent approximately \$300,000 to the bank account through the Tower system. When the Internal Revenue Service learned about the Tower scheme and audited Lewis' tax liabilities, he stopped filing income tax returns and falsely claimed that he believed the law did not require him to file returns.

Lewis' father, Leroy Albert Lewis, an oral surgeon in California, was also charged in the same indictment with fraud and tax evasion through his participation in the Tower program.

He is currently awaiting trial.

"The government will not tolerate the use of offshore accounts to illegally escape tax obligations," said John Imhoff Jr., acting IRS chief of Criminal Investigation. "Those Americans who file accurate, honest and timely returns can be assured that the government will hold accountable those who don't."

Numerous other Tower clients across the country have either pled guilty or have been convicted of tax offenses.

A Denver court convicted two promoters of the Tower scheme, Paul D. Harris and Lester R. Retherford, in April 2005. Robert N. Bedford, Tower's tax expert who was involved in the company's conspiracy, was convicted in December 2006. Retherford was sentenced to 48 months in prison in December 2005, and Harris was sentenced to 66 months.

Bedford's sentencing is set for April 27. ■

Aquatic center

► Continued from page 5

account that there are still costs pending and projects they have obligations to fulfill, Parsons said.

The committee's projected annual income is about \$700,000.

Members were split, however, on what they felt they could comfortably contribute.

"I wished it had been \$400,000," Domes said, adding there are items on the budget that have not been motioned for.

Domes was disappointed with the decision, considering the overwhelming support and feedback the community generated in support of the pool. She voted not to contribute \$200,000 as a form of protesting that it was an insufficient amount.

"The e-mails have been voluminous," she said. "We should be listening to the community and acting

for the will of the community ... it's no skin off of the R-7A budget."

Other committee members suggested alternative ways of calculating what they should contribute.

The steering committee, however, pointed to a large chunk of money in the budget, \$2.7 million that carried over from last year.

"If you had \$2.7 million in the bank, it would be a no-brainer," Dewar said.

Parsons, who is the vice chairman of R-7A and in charge of budget issues, said most of the \$2.7 million was carried over from last year and the bulk of it is not available for spending. She said an approximate figure for what is available couldn't yet be calculated.

"It seems like there's a lot of money there but really there's not," Mick said.

One member suggested that since 17 percent of SRVHS are Alamo

students, the committee should give 17 percent of what the town of Danville contributes. Other members said their priorities were toward building another park in Alamo.

The total cost of building the aquatic center is estimated to be \$2.4 million. So far about \$1.4 million has been raised, with Danville contributing \$750,000.

Since the Parks and Recreation Committee acts as an advisory board for county supervisors, the decision is not set in stone. The supervisors usually make decisions based on the committee's recommendation, but Alamo residents can contact their supervisor directly to give input.

Dewar, who plans to pursue more sources for contributions, said the committee will work with the Town of Danville and the county on the project.

"I think there is still a lot of discussion that will go on," he said. ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



The envelope, please

Newspapers reported Monday morning that the Academy Awards on Sunday evening were a drag. Perhaps for anyone watching it on TV at home. But for those of us at the Danville Village Theatre it was a fun evening, with stars bigger than life on a 15-foot screen, friends to chat with, and a food table to visit during the slow moments. Not to mention a wine bar.

The Danville Oscar Night was a fundraiser for the fourth annual Danville International Children's Film Festival, which will take place May 18-20. Tickets for \$25 included food, wine and soft drinks, and watching the awards on the big screen with a great sound system. As my friend Maria and I approached the theater, we could smell the popcorn and were greeted by representatives from sponsor AT&T who gave out pens and other goodies. We each drew the name of a nominee so we had a chance to become a winner, too. A red carpet was rolled out to one side, and there were huge cardboard cutouts of stars.

But don't think the Danville event was lacking live celebrities. The Queen of England herself—aka Stephanie Petermeier—was there in honor of the nominated movie, "The Queen." Petermeier is the volunteer coordinator for the California Independent Film Festival, which produces the Children's Film Festival. But most of the audience was dressed casually, and I was thankful not to have to put on an evening gown or get my makeup done.

Another celebrity in attendance was young Stephanie Brock, who won top honors last year at the Children's Film Festival for best young animation with her entry, "Fiddle Cat." She stood and waved after being introduced by festival director Tim Neeley.

Neeley came out to the stage during each commercial break to give out prizes based on that segment's winners. Mayor Mike Shimansky won the prize for best cinematography because he had drawn the winner's name. Neeley also had trivia contests, as well as drawings, and gave a grand prize of a huge gift basket at the end for the person who had predicted the most Oscar winners. He kept us well entertained during commercials.

Neeley also told stories about when he lived in Los Angeles and attended the Academy Awards as a member of the press. It's a long day for reporters, he said. "We had to get there almost five or six hours before the celebrities arrived on the red carpet." Then the press had to stay in one room with a TV moni-

tor, and the winners were brought to them one by one. "Hundreds of the press were in there, screaming out questions," Neeley recalled. Then he went to the Oscars in 1995 as a guest and had a seat upstairs. "We had a great time," he reported. Upstairs, the guests party hearty while the nominees on the main floor are on display and not allowed to drink, he explained.

It's definitely more fun to watch the awards with a crowd. We laughed at Ellen Degeneres' better lines and applauded at many parts.

My mother-in-law Juanita still remembers stumbling onto the Oscars during a vacation to Los Angeles with my father-in-law and another couple in the 1940s. They saw a crowd gathering on some bleachers by an entrance and were told it was for the Academy Awards. They took seats in the bleachers and watched as the stars made their way out of limousines and down the red carpet. "We saw all the movies stars but the only one I remember now is Joan Crawford," Juanita reminisced recently. "Everyone was calling, 'Hi, Joanie! Hi, Joanie!' She waved."

It's definitely more fun to watch the awards with a crowd. We laughed at Ellen Degeneres' better lines and applauded at many parts. Sometimes it was hard to tell what was us and what came from the loudspeakers. During the less riveting moments, we talked among ourselves. The event was run casually, with occasional announcements being made: "There's more pizza in the lobby." Everyone made themselves at home.

Neeley estimated about 150 people attended the Danville Oscars, so hopefully the event raised a few thousand dollars to help the Children's Film Festival continue its exciting work for the fourth year. If the evening was a little long, blame the Hollywood organizers, not those in Danville. Now I have some catching up to do with my movie viewing—I'll see you at the movies.

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

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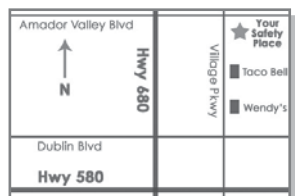
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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

The business of culture

The curse of many nonprofit arts organizations is they have no one with business savvy on their boards. But they must be run like businesses to succeed.

Arts boards often bubble over with creative ideas and innovative activities. And the mission of sustaining and promoting arts in the community is a noble one. But hard decisions must be made as far as raising funds, charging for performances and displays, and meeting expenses; Business expertise is invaluable in these areas.

The Danville Area Cultural Alliance is currently working with the Town of Danville to open another art gallery after it closed its venue above the Village Theatre in November. The town reported DACA had not paid rent for a year, which was \$100 per month plus 3.5 percent of its gross income. In effect, this means the town was subsidizing the group more than was its intention. For DACA's first two years after its founding in 1989, the town did not charge any rent to give it a chance to get on its feet.

The Danville area group exists "To promote, sustain, and enhance visual, literary, and performing arts, their artists, and the community." In order for any group to do this, it must have a solid financial foundation. After a meeting with DACA in December, town management concluded the group was not able to articulate either a mission or specific goals. Also, town staff noted that while the group listed several programs, including the Poet's Society, art classes, salons and exhibitions, notably missing were fundraising programs. DACA reported an income last year of \$28,000, which went largely to advertising expenses and holding events.

The group is under new management, and president Bill Carmel said they are aware they must operate in a professional manner. This is good news for this group, which has so many worthwhile endeavors.

The Danville area group exists "To promote, sustain, and enhance visual, literary, and performing arts, their artists, and the community." In order for any group to do this, it must have a solid financial foundation.

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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



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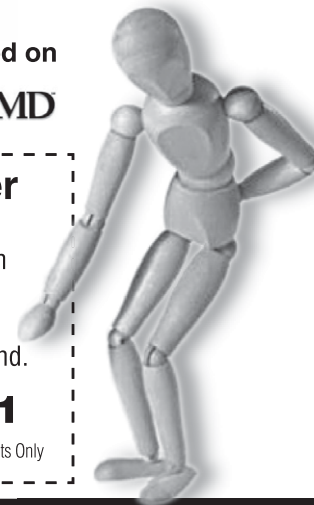
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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE LOG

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

Monday, Feb. 19

- Unwanted guest disturbance on Promenade Ln. at 2:01 a.m.
- Littering on Fostoria Way at 9:41 a.m.
- Fraud on Old Orchard Dr. at 10:31 a.m.
- Verbal disturbance on Esther Ln. at 11:28 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Sycamore Cir. at 11:29 a.m.
- Harass disturbance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:53 a.m.
- Disturbance on Fostoria way at 12:20 p.m.
- Battery on Dutch Mill Dr. at 4:21 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Old Blackhawk Rd. at 5:35 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Capitan Dr. at 9:27 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

- Terrorist threats on Joaquin Dr. at 12:55 a.m.
- Burglary, miscellaneous, on Esther Ln. at 7:32 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Cerro Blvd. at 7:53 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Cerro Blvd. and El Quanito Dr. at 7:55 a.m.
- Identity theft on Dove Creek Ln. at 8:45 a.m.
- Residential burglary on El Dorado Ave. at 9:13 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:17 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Diablo Rd. at 1:36 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Holbrook Dr. at 1:37 p.m.
- Animal cruelty on El Capitan Dr. and Great Northern Pl. at 3:05 p.m.
- Petty theft, vehicle parts, on Willow Dr. at 3:36 p.m.

POLICE BULLETIN

Drunk in public results in arrest

Danville police arrested a loud, staggering 48-year-old drunk woman at Meenar's Bar last week, according to police reports.

The Danville resident was arrested by police for allegedly being drunk in public at Meenar's Bar on Hartz Avenue on Saturday night, Feb. 24. A bar employee called the police at 11:50 p.m. when she was acting unruly, said Sgt. Troy Craig.

"She started creating a disturbance at the bar with other customers," he said.

The woman, who stands 4 feet 11 inches and was wearing a black and blue dress at the time of her arrest, was grabbing hats off people's heads and refusing to give them back, according to reports. When Danville Officer Kevin Briggs arrived at the scene, she was unable to stand or walk without any assistance, Craig said.

Her alcohol blood level was .22, according to reports.

She was taken to Martinez Detention Facility, Craig said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

Wednesday, Feb. 21

- Credit card fraud on Pulido Rd. at 8:52 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Squirrel Ridge Way at 9:13 a.m.
- Grand theft on Love Ln. at 9:25 a.m. and 10:27 a.m.
- Drugs violation on William Ct. at 3:52 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Gingerwood Ln. at 4:38 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Danville Blvd. at 5:20 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22

- Defrauding innkeeper on Camino Ramon at 11:21 a.m.
- Fight disturbance on Greenbrook Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:57 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on St. George Rd. at 2:56 p.m.
- Harass disturbance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:42 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Hill Meadow Pl. at 8:16 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23

- Vandalism on Bobbie Dr. at 8:35 a.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Green Valley Rd. at 11:02 a.m.
- Vandalism on Lawrence Rd. at 12:01 p.m.

- Credit card fraud on Santiago Ct. at 2:32 p.m.
- Identity theft on Rancho Verde Cir. E. at 2:53 p.m.
- Vandalism on Bobbie Dr. at 4:20 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Diablo Rd. at 4:43 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on W. El Pintado Rd. at 6:12 p.m.
- Vandalism on Old Farm Rd. at 6:50 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on El Capitan Dr. and Orange Blossom Way at 9:43 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Hartz Ave. at 11:59 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24

- Noise disturbance on Bolero Dr. at 12:38 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and northbound I-680 at 6:01 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on El Capitan Dr. at 8:43 a.m.
- Party disturbance on Danville Oak Pl. at 11:57 a.m.
- Vandalism on Alegre Ct. at 3:08 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 11:31 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Leon Henry 'Papa' Gartung

Alamo resident Leon Henry "Papa" Gartung, 67, passed away suddenly Feb. 9.

He was born June 2, 1939, in Strathmore, Calif. One of eight siblings, he grew up in Porterville, where he played high school and college football. He graduated with honors from Cal Poly Pomona, did post graduate work at Purdue University and received his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from San Jose State University.

He worked for Lawrence Livermore Lab and EG&G, before launching his real estate career in the early 1970s. During the next 30 years, he owned several real estate and mortgage companies, mentored real estate agents, and helped clients develop real estate portfolios.

He loved skiing, traveling, reading and learning, and most of all his family, who called him "Papa."

He is survived by his wife and

best friend Jennifer; daughter and son-in-law Debbie and Dave Black of Sacramento; son and daughter-in-law Dan and Kris Gartung of Hillsborough; stepdaughter and son-in-law Elka and John Suer of Walnut Creek; and stepdaughter and son-in-law Jayme and John Daley of Martinez; nine grandchildren; brother Clyde Gartung and sister Kathleen Banister of New Bransfels, Texas; sister and brother-in-law Stella Steinmetz and Lee Launstein of Bakersfield; sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Doug Cook of Novato; sister-in-law Shirley Gartung of Strathmore; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by siblings Evelyn, Nancy and Mark Gartung.

Memorial services were held Feb. 16 at Round Hill Country Club, Alamo. Due to the value he placed on education, donations can be made in his honor to the Leon Gartung Scholarship Fund, 116 Sedgfield Court, San Ramon, 94583.

Michael Edward Meehan

Diablo resident Michael Edward Meehan, 48, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, at one of his favorite places, Pebble Beach, while attending the AT&T Golf Tournament.

He was born Feb. 2, 1959, in New York City, and moved to Walnut Creek in 1971. He graduated from Northgate High School in 1977 and St. Mary's College in 1981. He is remembered as a beloved husband, father, son, brother and friend.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edward J. Meehan. He is survived by his wife Terri Meehan; daughter Elizabeth Meehan; mother Patricia Meehan; siblings Pam Sponseller (Gary), Maureen Whitaker (Richard), Meg Hoppe (Doug), and Matthew Meehan (Denise); and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

A Mass celebrating his life was held Feb. 15 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

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Kerry Beeman makes a lay-up to the basket in the North Coast Section quarterfinals against Granada, which the Mustangs won 54-46.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Monte Vista's Brian Barbour drives to the basket, looking to score against Antioch. The Mustangs won 53-50 in the last 19 seconds, sending them to the semifinals against Berkeley on Wednesday.

Lady Wolves best Mustangs for soccer championship

Jillian Armstrong knocks two past MV for the title

by Rachel McMurdie

In a soccer section playoff where league games are usually a good indicator of how teams will fare in championships, the San Ramon Valley girls had the odds stacked against them. The Wolves (16-7-3) lost to rival Monte Vista (14-4-7) twice during the regular season. They had been nursing injuries. And they had seen their first place East Bay Athletic League standing drop to fourth after losing the last three regular season games.

But Saturday, none of that mattered. The No. 5 Wolves held claim on their North Coast Section title beating No. 3 Monte Vista in the championship 2-0 on two goals from Jillian Armstrong.

The first goal, a left-foot shot off the post, came at minute 17, when Armstrong took a pass from Grace Leer.

The Mustangs came back hard in the second half, out-shooting the Wolves 7-3 but could not get past Wolves all-American goalkeeper Aubree Southwick, who recorded a total 12 saves. Just in front of her, the back line of Amanda Glass, Chelsea Gallegos and Mackenzie Laird, and defensive midfielder Gabby Parisella, kept the Mustangs at bay.

Monte Vista came close to scoring several times in the second half. Their best chance came at minute 53 when a free kick by Cori McGovern hit the top of the frame.

But two minutes later, Armstrong had the ball at the other end of the field and scored again on a penalty shot, giving the Wolves the win.

Boys soccer: Monte Vista rallies past Cal for title

The No. 1-seeded Mustangs claimed their second consecutive NCS 3A championship with a 1-0 win over No. 3 California, to end their undefeated season.

Alex Oberlander put in the game's only goal, on a rebounded ball. Jack Griffin, Mustang defender, had sent in a punishing free kick from 24 yards out, but the ball ricocheted off California goalkeeper David Bingham, leaving Oberlander to score.

The Grizzlies (17-5-2), led by California's star forward Andrew Wiedeman, staged several attacks, including a final push in the last ten minutes but to no avail. The Mustangs (19-0-7), who have shown a solid defense all year, held off the attacks and closed down shooting lanes.

Monte Vista is the first team since Miramonte in 2003-04 to



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

San Ramon Valley High girls soccer team celebrates beating cross-town rivals Monte Vista 2-0 for the North Coast Section championship on Saturday.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Monte Vista High boys soccer team claims its second consecutive NCS championship after its 1-0 win over California High in the finals.

finish the East Bay Athletic season undefeated.

Girls basketball

Monte Vista girls advanced to the NCS Division I semifinals after a 54-46 win over Granada in Friday's quarterfinals. Niveen Rasheed, the MVP of the East Bay League, sat on the bench most of the first half in foul trouble, while the Mustangs supporting crew made the win a team effort.

Mustangs Anina Middleton, Nicole Vigar, Allie Samson and Carlyn Raphael carried the load for Monte Vista. Middleton and Raphael are starters, but Vigar and Samson came off the bench to combine for six points in the second quarter. Raphael, a senior, finished with a game-high 15 points, turning in one of her best games of the year. Middleton added another 12 points.

With the win, No. 3 Monte Vista became host of No. 7 San Leandro in Wednesday night's semifinal. Scores were unavailable at press time.

Boys basketball

Monte Vista came up with a win

at the wire in Friday's North Coast Section Division I quarterfinals. The Mustangs trailed the Antioch 50-49, but with 19 seconds left, were able to push it to a 53-50 win.

Senior Ryan Whalen, who ended the night with 17 points, calmly sank two free throws to give the Mustangs the lead in the fourth. Brian Barbour, a Monte Vista sophomore who ended the night with 14 points, finished it off with two more well-placed free throws.

Monte Vista players, shooting only 5-13 from the free throw line heading into the fourth, found themselves down 10 points headed into the fourth quarter. But soon the shots began to fall. With two minutes left, Cam Fenley helped Monte Vista regain at 49-48 and the team made the final clutch shots when it counted most.

With the win, No. 3 Monte Vista was chosen to host the No. 8 Berkeley in the semifinal Wednesday night. Scores were unavailable by press time. ■

E-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.

Alamo man's life miss

Jordan Riak is a self-proclaimed thief. But not in the conventional way—nobody's missing cars, cash or jewelry.

In fact, the only property that's gone missing is a small thin stick, about the width of bamboo, which was used for whapping elementary school students in the early '80s.

The Alamo resident was living in Sydney, Australia, when he stole a "cane" from his son's principal, as a form of protesting corporal punishment in public schools.

Earlier in the week, his 8-year-old son Justin had narrowly escaped a caning, the process by which students are smacked several times on the hand as a method of discipline. Justin watched as his two close friends came out of the principal's office, one by one, clutching their hands and biting back tears.

"The following day, I kept him home and I went to see the principal. I told him, 'This is a weapon. You have no place striking a child with this, and I'm not giving it back to you,'" Riak recalls.

Then he picked up the phone and called every newspaper in town.

"I told them I'm turning myself in for theft of government property at the police station tomorrow at 4 p.m.," he says.

Sure enough, when it came time, there was a mob of journalists outside the police department. Like a pack of hungry wolves, they crowded around him, flashing photographs and scribbling into their notebooks.

Back then, Riak's goal was to get people talking—to draw attention to the issue. And he succeeded.

Spanking: today's debate

These days, the 71-year-old founder of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education isn't stirring up quite as much trouble.

But he is persistently working to get corporal punishment out of the schools and homes in America. Twenty-one states still allow paddling in schools, and the discussion over spanking children at home swept across the country this month, when California Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View) proposed a bill to criminalize spanking children under the age of 4.

When Riak, a college professor in the arts, first moved to Alamo in the late 1980s he wrote California Assembly Bill 1617, legislature to ban pain as punishment in schools.

Since then, his booklet, "Plain Talk About Spanking," has generated national attention from parents, teachers and acclaimed psychologists.

So it's no wonder that this month his e-mail box has been full enough to burst.

"I've gotten a lot of hostile mail," Riak says, with a faded New Jersey accent, over a midmorning conversation at his kitchen table.

In just days, the debate over spanking spread from California, across the country, into national newspapers and onto popular TV news channels. Saturday Night Live even spoofed the issue during its weekend update segment three weeks ago.

Originally, Lieber proposed that the bill criminalize spanking for children under the age of 4, with harshest punishments including a year in jail or up to a \$1,000 fine, though Riak says it's silly to think first time offenders would go to jail.

Legislators and activists for children said spanking often escalates into physically and emotionally abusive territory, while those who practice more traditional parenting say it never did them any harm.

Last week, however, the congresswoman redrafted the bill to define what child abuse is—including vigorously shaking a child and closed handed hitting. But this time she left spanking

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NO SPANKING

Alamo is banning corporal punishment for children by Natalie O'Neill

the equation. To many advocates of a ban on corporal punishment, leaving out spanking is a big step backward.

For recent changes to the proposed legislation include adding non-violent parental education classes to the possible penalties, Barry N. Hart, principal assistant to Sally Lieber, said.

Spanking in Alamo

Surprisingly, Riak adamantly supported the spanking bill. His view is that spanking is not only an ineffective way of disciplining a child, but that it also causes long-term negative effects on a child's emotional, social and sexual development.

"Spanking a child does not teach them that what is done is wrong, it teaches them that the parent is bigger and stronger," he says.

Riak backs his theory up with social and psychological studies, indicating that children who are spanked are more prone to acting out through aggressive behavior, that spanking is a form of violence, and that societies that use corporal punishment are more prone to violence.

In an educated, family-oriented community like Alamo, where Riak raised his children, the common thread is that most parents are committed to learning about and doing what's best for their kids.

Without a controversial bill, this is something parents should be thinking about, Riak says.

"We are a community that cares about children and we want to be informed if we are doing something that's not good for them," Riak says. During some of his outings to other East Bay communities, he sometimes hands out stickers and the word about why not to spank. The stickers say, "Kid's safe zone. No Spanking."

One way parents respond to him says a lot about how that community treats its kids, he says.

In Alamo, he says most parents are very receptive to his message, while they may or may not completely agree with him. Parents usually let their kids take a sticker and then explain what it means and the meaning behind it.

At grocery stores in Danville and Alamo, Riak often heard children ask, "Mommy, what is this?" But in other places, like Concord for example, he is no stranger to the cold shoulder. The difference in views is vast, he says.

Don't we already have laws against child abuse?

Throughout history, it has been legal to slap servants, wives and even employees. Children are the only group that isn't completely protected.

The problem with existing laws, Riak says, is that they most use vague language that helps protect the parent rather than the child.

Legal phrases like "reasonable in the circumstances" are commonly found in child abuse and neglect laws.

This creates a gray area—a slippery slope for legal abusive parents, he says.

A favorite alibi for child abusers is 'I was only acting in a reasonable manner.' One person's idea of reasonable is different from another's," he says.

Mild spanking, many parents say, is necessary whether to straighten out a defiant young child or to quickly teach them about danger.

A recent study supports the notion that a spanking doesn't do kids any real harm.

Diana Baumrind, a psychologist from UC Berkeley, conducted a study in 2001 that demystified the myth of no negative social or developmental result from mild spanking. Her case study involved about 100 parents and families in the area.

The critics

Baumrind's take on the originally proposed bill is that, while she's not necessarily an advocate of corporal punishment, banning spanking is not the answer.

"A ban would not only be impractical but would represent a radical and inappropriate intrusion in family matters," she says.

Similar viewpoints have been echoing across California, as some parents find the idea of governmental bodies interfering with their discipline choices particularly invasive.

This is the opinion of Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families, a nonprofit California-based group dedicated to serving families.

"Any elected official who supports (the ban) is attacking dads and moms and usurping their God-given responsibility to raise their own children," Thomasson says.

But Riak has trouble coming up with any situation that would call for the necessary spanking of a young child.

"If a 4-year-old gets into your power tools, you lock the shed. You don't smack the child," he says.

To him, spanking is the lazy parent's method.

To many parents, though, it's a matter of knowing their own kid. They say they understand their child better than any congresswoman or psychologist and that the government should stay out of private matters.

To that, Riak uses current laws to prove his point. He says there is nothing more private than your own blood and governmental bodies can take your blood for a DUI test. The reason for this is when you drive drunk, you put other people in danger, he points out.

Spanking brings up a similar safety issue because it has been proven to escalate. The government should be able to interfere when someone's safety is on the line, he says.

"Think about the seatbelt laws; they were hard to enforce and people resisted at first. But now it's accepted as common sense," he says.

"Hitting a child does not teach them that what they've done is wrong, it teaches them that the hitter is bigger and stronger."

—Jordan Riak

The difference, some say, is that driving drunk and not using a seatbelt are proven to have a negative effect on society. With spanking, however, there is still no consensus in the sociological and psychological worlds that spanking does that type of damage.

With this in mind, how do we even know spanking our children is affecting us as a society?

"Do a Google search on spanking—see how many Web sites come up as pornographic—and I think you'll have one of your answers," Riak says.

Spanking, sexuality and education

As the theory goes, being spanked affects your sexual development because of both the common spanking age and the place you're likely to be hit.

"The anal region is also the major erotic region at precisely the time the child is likely to be beaten there. Thus it is aptly chosen to achieve the result of deranged sexuality in adulthood," wrote respected psychologist David Bakan in "Slaughter of the Innocents."

Children who are spanked are also less likely to view their bodies as their own property, Riak adds, and are therefore more prone to being targeted by sexual predators.

Fourteen countries in the world have already banned using any level of pain to discipline children, mostly European and Scandinavian. By and large, these countries have lower instances of violence than the United States and higher literacy rates.

Offering parental education classes, whether they are required at the high school level or are optional at hospitals, is one thing both sides agree is a good idea.

"Education, not legislation, is the method of choice to improve parenting practices," Baumrind says.

And Riak agrees, on some level.

"Parenting classes should be offered in high schools—like driver's education," he says.

There is also a general consensus on the part of both corporal punishment advocates and those who oppose it, that spanking should be used as a last resort. Other methods, like "timeouts" and verbal warnings, should be exhausted first, both parties say.

It's highly possible that the root of child abuse, like so many of the other problems in our country, may lie in lack of education.

While the debate over whether or not spanking is abuse continues to roar, supporters and critics agree on one thing. Parents who educate themselves will only become better parents.

"Next time you're in Barnes and Noble, go to the parenting section and measure the shelf. It's huge. Anyone who wants to be a good parent can be," Riak says.

To find out more on banning corporal punishment visit Riak's Web site, www.nospank.net. ■



Alamo resident Jordan Riak, president of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education, has devoted more than 30 years of his life to getting corporal punishment out of schools and homes.

Literature and life



JORDAN M. DORONILA



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Top: Seniors Elliott Perrings and Chloe Marx discuss themes of pain from the memoir "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls at the Venture School Book Club. Below: Venture School Principal Joan Diamond and Claudia Doherty facilitate the discussion with students at their book club.

Venture book club is a chance to ponder adult issues

by Jordan M. Doronila

Pain affects people in many ways. Some wither and die; others receive wisdom and strength.

"It destroys or prepares a person ... for a healthy, good life," said Venture High School Principal Joan Diamond. "Therein lies the question."

Diamond was talking about the process of going through personal pain, at the Venture Book Club that she runs with English teacher Claudia Doherty.

They and their students at Venture High School were discussing the trauma described by MSNBC.com columnist Jeannette Walls in her memoir "The Glass Castle," which club members read. Walls has woven a lyrical and vivid narrative about her experience growing up with an alcoholic father and a neurotic artistic mother.

The six students and two facilitators who attended the meeting said they saw the value of Walls' difficult childhood upbringing.

"I think if you deal with challenges, you grow and evolve and find (good) out of the challenges," said one student. "It helps prepare you for the real world."

"Out of the bad, some good will come," Doherty said.

The book club meets monthly and reads a variety of literature that contains mature and adult themes. Another book was "Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, which chronicles the lives of two friends in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

They have read the original "Peter Pan" and discussed the desire to stay young and the benefits of growing old. Currently, they are reading "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom.

Members said they find reading and discussing books together at a club enriching.

"It's a space where students can think and can ponder adult or mature issues," Diamond said.

"It prepares you for adulthood," said senior Eden Robinson. "There's a lot of issues you need to think about. Some people die without figuring things out."

"The book club helps really define ourselves and establish our core sense of values," she added, noting that it helps students recognize and understand themselves.

Principal Diamond, 64, has been in education for almost 40 years, doing classroom teaching and special education plus being involved

in state and county programs.

She graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelors, a masters degree, and teaching credentials. She received her special education and administrative credentials at California State University East Bay.

Diamond has been principal at Venture for 24 years, and before that served as principal for Bollinger Canyon Elementary and Golden View Elementary schools.

Venture is a fully accredited comprehensive high school that delivers the curriculum through independent study. Students come to Venture once a week and spend several hours with their teacher. Students receive weekly assignments at that time, and are expected to spend a minimum of 20 hours a week on academic work.

Students attend Venture so they can also pursue educational opportunities outside the classroom, such as music or acting, yet within the framework of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

"The book club helps really define ourselves and establish our core sense of values."

—Senior Eden Robinson

The school's Web site says Diamond believes students can learn through artful leadership, having a love of learning instilled, taking chances, and respecting each individual's uniqueness. She believes a school climate needs to be nurturing and supportive of differences.

Diamond, in collaboration with students, has written a book entitled "Voices of the Students, Is Anybody Listening?" It discusses the importance of asking students what has worked for them in their school career and, if they were in charge, what would be a wonderful school.

Doherty has been teaching for 20 years and has taught at Venture for 15. She grew up in Sacramento and graduated from the University of San Francisco.

Doherty said the book club helps students attain a wide perspective of the current books that are being read. ■



A cut above: Slicin' and dicin' your way in the kitchen

Carpenters, gardeners and surgeons are quick to admit that their handiwork is only as good as the tools and instruments they use. And the same rule of thumb applies to cooking. Inspired cooking requires a reliable stove/oven, great utensils and, above all, good knives. A sharp blade with the right grip paired with a few basic cutting skills can make a noticeable difference in your culinary results.

Even if you also use your Cuisinart, Kitchen-Aid and other prep appliances to manage some of your chopping and slicing tasks, all cooks should master the standard cuts by hand. Moreover, food cut into same-size bites will aid in uniform cooking and browning, enhancing food texture and flavors, and improving the aesthetic and tasting value of any dish.

Knife basics:

You don't need dozens of knives—just a few well-made ones that are kept clean, sharp and cared for. You'll want at least four different styles:

- **Paring:** A short-blade knife used mainly for precise cutting, like peeling, coring and trimming.
- **Serrated:** A knife with scalloped teeth allows for cutting through soft foods like breads, tomatoes and cakes without crushing them.
- **Slicing:** This knife has a long flexing blade for slicing meats or filleting fish.
- **Chef's:** Its long, broad blade has weight and leverage to handle chopping a variety of fruits, vegetables and other ingredients.

Purchase a sharpening stone to keep your knives sharp and in their best shape. Or, if you don't have the time or inclination to sharpen them yourself, inquire about knife sharpening at your local grocer. Many grocers offer special knife sharpening days or drop-off services. Treat your knives and yourself to regular re-sharpening as needed. You'll notice the difference as you cut and cook.

Cutting basics:

Before cutting, it's advisable to anchor your cutting board by placing a damp paper towel or dish towel underneath. This should prevent any slippage. Also, it will be easier to achieve uniform pieces if you trim odd-shaped food items so they have four straight sides. With large items, like onions, cut the item into large chunks (halves, quarters, etc.), then cut sections into smaller and smaller pieces to achieve the desired size and thickness.

The best knife grip is holding the handle close to the blade and using your thumb and forefinger to grasp the blade. Then, with your other hand, holding down the item to be cut, curl your fingers/thumb under and begin cutting with easy top-down-to-bottom-down motions. Use your curled fingers to move the un-cut part of the item toward the blade as you chop off pieces. The more you practice this technique, the faster and more fluid your cutting skills will become.

Even if you don't consider yourself a master at cutting now, you probably employ the 12 standard types of cuts already. It's helpful to mentally group them by shape and size:

VERY SMALL	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
Brunoise: Very small cubes, 1/8" and uniform size	Dice: Smaller uniform cubes, 1/4"	Medium Dice: Same size cubes, 1/2"	Large Dice: Uniform cubes, 3/4" or larger
Chiffonade: Cuts of thin, fine ribbons, mostly herbs and greens rolled up and cut	Julienne: Narrow, thin strips, 1-2" long and 1/16" thick	Matchstick: Smaller than baton cuts, 1-2" long and 1/8" thick	Baton: The widest stick cuts, 1-2" long and 1/4" thick
Mince: Very small pieces but not uniform shape; often for onion, garlic, ginger, herbs, etc.	Fine Chop: Small pieces similar in size but irregular shape	Coarse Chop: Large pieces, usually in rough shapes & uniform size	Bias Cut: Medium to large pieces cut on an angle; often for stir-fry and garnishes

So, sharpen those knives and hone those cutting skills! The combo will ensure that your culinary achievements are a cut above the rest.

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

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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

Videogames pose dangers—to brains and bodies

The advent of videogames that abound in 21st century technology-dominated society may prove detrimental to those who play them. In his book "The Good Son," therapist and educator Michael Gurian addresses the videogames so attractive to today's youth. Most of them are males, according to the third Nielsen "Active Gamer Benchmark" study, which revealed that 70 percent of 117 million "active gamers" in the U.S. are male.

Gurian said videogames "can be dangerous to brain development, and thus emotional and moral development." He describes the 1998 Sony PlayStation game "Cardinal Syn," which was advertised as a game where one could find "torture, mutilation, rivers of blood, bestial howls, and living death chambers." Certainly this gruesome description does not sound like a healthy image, let alone anything most parents would want their children exposed to.

Gurian explains that these kinds of images, and others portrayed in other popular games, stimulate the aggression centers of the brain and can promote violence, especially in males. Videogames "fit the very spatial male brain, and the inherent desire in the male psyche to test the self in aggressive arenas." These images and experiences of suffering and even death that are portrayed in the games distort reality, "desensitizing (the player) to real pain," and thus possibly preventing the emotional development of compassion and sensitivity.

San Ramon Valley High School junior Vincent Chuang, an avid World of Warcraft player who began playing videogames with SuperNintendo in kindergarten, admits he spends eight to 10 hours gaming on weekends.

"I play for a variety of reasons, mostly just for fun," he said. "I like the feeling that when I kill someone in a game, there is another player at his computer, frustrated."

Vincent explains that most gamers are male because he finds the games' violence is more appealing to guys than to girls.

"I also think these games are so attractive because they allow people to escape from reality and get away from their problems in the real world," he added.

Though playing videogames offers a break from stress, many of these games are addictive, and what starts as a short recess can quickly turn into a complete retreat from the real world. The addictive nature of videogames stems from the fact that, in order to succeed in the game, one must spend hours practicing—"leveling up" as Vincent prefers. Literally living in this fantasy world for hours or even days at a time limits real-life social interaction and can likely result in a loss of communication skills people need for dealing with day-to-

day situations.

Gurian notes that the players' ability to react to situations in games by simply pushing buttons decreases the need to use words, and can actually detract from the brain's development of "verbal-emotive responses" in youths. Not only this, but Gurian stresses that "games teach violent solutions as opposed to more varied moral responses to social stress."

Aside from psychological development, excessive playing of videogames can cause physiological problems as well.

"The games rely on 'fixated eye movement,' a trancelike state that TV relies on," remarks Gurian. This state of "fixated eye movement" is described as being somewhat similar to the state of oblivion resulting from mild drug use. Many gamers also complain of back and neck aches that result from sitting in a solitary position for any long period of time.

Playing videogames may also be a significant cause of youth obesity in America, as playing detracts from time that could be spent exercising or being outdoors. Kids who spend hours sitting in front of their computers or TVs often subconsciously stuff their mouths with snack foods that are mostly unhealthy.

In addition to these health factors, many videogames are unsafe as they enable youths to talk with strangers. A few months ago I was somewhat surprised to find my cousin gaming, clad with a headset and microphone, and communicating with another anonymous player whom he had never met. Those who play Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPGs) assume their own fictional character and apparently interact with numerous other strangers in a vast virtual gaming world.

Though the attraction to videogames is somewhat inevitable, it is still important for parents to delay the time before their kids have access to videogames, and once they do, to monitor the amount of exposure time. Michael Gurian suggests that parents should wait until their children are at least 9 years old before allowing extended exposure to videogames. Even then, he warns, "video games should never become a large part of a (child's) life, especially if (he/she) is showing any signs of being socially, academically or athletically behind," or if any attention span problems are apparent.

It is clear that playing videogames, an activity that once seemed merely a harmless way to spend leisure time, has the potential to cause serious damage in a society gripped by their addictive hold.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



DRAWING BY JOHN S. HAMEL

Amador adobe from the 1800s

Jose Maria Amador moved to his rancho in 1826 where he built several large adobes over the years. According to the testimony of Augustine Bernal in 1852, Amador built his last two-story adobe in 1846. His headquarters was located in today's Dublin around San Ramon Road and Dublin Boulevard. In addition to livestock grazing, Amador cultivated a variety of crops near the headquarters including grain, potatoes, vegetables and onions. He had regular customers to whom he sold his hides, transporting them over the pass (today's I-580) to the Bay.

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Rating: PG-13 for some language and sexual content.
1 hours, 36 minutes.

Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore make some beautiful music in this romantic laughter that trolls for big Valentine's box office.

Grant is has-been pop star Alex Fletcher, whose fame and fortune from the kitschy '80s group Pop! have gone the way of shoulder pads and acid-washed denim. Alex makes ends meet by playing county fairs and stag parties, creaking his way through trademark hip thrusts.

A chance meeting with professional plant doctor Sophie Fisher (Barrymore) alters the landscape. Alex is offered a rare opportunity to pen a hit for spiritual teen sensation Cora Corman (Haley Bennett) but his creative juices have all but dried up. When Alex discovers that Sophie has a knack for snappy lyrics he persuades her, against her better judgment, to team up in the name of showbiz.

Naturally the relationship blossoms; even less surprisingly, narrative misunderstandings threaten to destroy it. The tried-and-true formula for silver-screen affection.

"Lyrics" lives and/or dies on the strength of Grant's and Barrymore's chemistry; happily theirs is an amiable pairing. Grant has sturdier comic chops—the role was tailor-made for him—but Barrymore is a harmlessly charming foil. The material is a crazy quilt of spot-on and verbal skids but the pair stay true to their humorous Zen.

Backdrop funnies abound, from inspired VH1 re-runs of Pop!'s music video hits to persistent references to the '80s, a comic force all its own. Alex contemplates a gig on the reality clunker "Battle of the '80s Has-Beens" along with Debbie Gibson, REO Speedwagon and Flock of Seagulls. All ripe for painless punch-lines.

Peripheral players carry some of the load, in particular Bennett whose Buddhism-in-a-thong philosophy strikes droll notes. "Lyrics" screams mainstream, but it's a sweet enough holiday confection.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

Visit www.DanvilleWeekly.com for more film reviews



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YOU ARE INVITED to attend a free educational seminar regarding "Advances in Diabetes Treatment" on March 8, 2007 at 7:30 pm in San Ramon Regional Medical Center's South Building located at 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. Space is limited and may be reserved by calling 800.284.2878.



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Speakers:

Mahmood Kazemi, M.D.

Endocrinologist

Pam Wilson, M.S., R.D.

Chief Clinical Dietitian

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Thursday, March 8, 2007

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

San Ramon Regional Medical Center
South Building
South Conference Room
7777 Norris Canyon Road

Reserve your place by calling

925.275.8230

or online www.sanramonmedctr.com

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Author Visit

Lolly Winston Project Second Chance presents "The Bookies seventh annual Celebration of Books and the People who Love Them" with special guest, Lolly Winston, at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 29, at the Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mount Diablo Blvd. Cost is \$50. Call (510) 723-5810 or visit Fremont Bank at 1735 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

Clubs

Blackhawk Republican Women Luncheon Blackhawk Republican Women will host Josiah Prendergast, president of Berkeley College Republicans, from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday, March 12, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. The topic will be "Bridging the Generation Gap: Combating Political Discontinuity". Cost is \$20. RSVP by noon, March 9th; call Ms. Lyons at 820-6452.

Concerts

A Musical Journey Around the World Danville Community Band presents "A Musical Journey Around the World" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The event is free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

Dan Nichols & E18hteen Congregation Beth Emek will host a rock concert featuring Dan Nichols & E19hteen at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 17, at Beth Emek's facility, 3400 Nevada St., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$36 for reserved seating, \$18 for general admission, \$20 at the door. Call 931-1055.

Jesse Winchester Community Concerts presents Jesse Winchester, a world-reowned singer-songwriter, at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and children. Visit www.communityconcerts.com or www.jessewinchester.com.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Community Concerts presents the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 24, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$40, \$25, \$22. Call 229-2710 or visit www.communityconcerts.com.

Valley Concert Chorale "Three Tableaus of Faure" Valley Concert Chorale presents "Three Tableaus of Faure" including Requiem, Messe Basse and Cantique de Jean Racine from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, March 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors. Students 18 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Call 417-8584 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Events

Country Folk Art Country Folk Art is coming to town! This ultimate craft show includes gourmet delights, jewelry, garden art and more, Friday-Sunday, March 9-11, at Alameda County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$2 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.countryfolkart.com.

Dirt Gardening with Buzz Bertolero Friends of the Danville Library and Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley presents Dirt Gardening with Buzz Bertolero from 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, at Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free, but seating is limited. Call 837-1293.

San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association Potluck Featuring "The Old West... Cowboy tales and Poetry with music and pictures" with Cowboy Poets Susan Parker and Lynn Owens. Also photographer, Andreas Koch's, newest musical DVD "Old West" Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., Presentation at 7:45 p.m., Friday, March 9, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members. Please bring a potluck dish. Call 743-1576 or visit www.acornnmr.com/srvha.

Exhibits

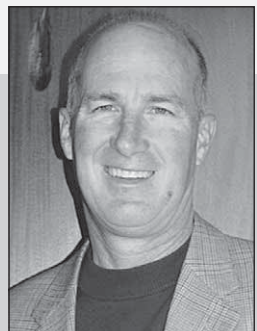
Lindsay Wildlife Art Exhibits Lindsay Wildlife Museum will host a collection of art exhibits including: The Art of Andrew Denman "A Natural Inclination" will be displayed until March 18; Origami Animals by Robert Lang will be displayed until April 29; Birds in Art from Feb. 24-May 5, all at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Space is the Place Bedford Gallery will host "Space is the Place" which will feature installations, paintings, works on paper and video clips which opens March 4, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut

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Creek. An opening reception will be held from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, March 4. "Astronaut or Alien?" costume contest will help for the best-dressed space explorer. Admission is \$3, \$2 for children 17 years and younger. The gallery is open from noon-5 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays and 6-8 p.m., Thursday-Saturdays. Call 295-1416.

Film

An Inconvenient Truth About Breast and Other Cancers Wall of Hope Breast Cancer Survivors Project will host a viewing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" from 7:30-10 p.m., Friday, March 9 and 23, at a private residence in Danville. Tickets are a donation of \$20. For directions and information, call 736-7100.

Children of Alcatraz Museum on Main will show and give a talk on Scott Cornfield's film "Children of Alcatraz" at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 15, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Admission is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Call 462-2766.

Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival Contra Costa International Film Festival will feature 19 award-winning feature and documentary films that span the Jewish universe until March 2, at three different venues including Brenden Concord Theatres, the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center and the Vine Cinema. For information, visit www.jfed.org.

Fundraisers

Girl Scout Cookie Sales in Danville Brownie Troop 2248, third grade girls from Rancho Romero Elementary School, will be selling your favorite cookies from 3:30-5 p.m., Friday, March 9, outside of Lundardi's, 345 Railroad Ave., Danville. Each box is \$3.50.

Health

Second Annual Weight Loss Challenge The second annual Weight Loss Challenge for Alamo and Surrounding Areas will run Saturdays, until March 10. Participants will enjoy a Weight Loss Coach via telephone, personal trainers, bike riding, "Be a Kid" roller skating night and more! For more information, contact Debbie at 890-7549 or dmcarmel@yahoo.com.

The Wellness Community The Wellness Community will host numerous workshops for cancer patients, their families and friends including: Mindful Chi Kung from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, March 1; Introduction to Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 3; Kids Circle & Teen Talk from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 10; Return to Wellness from 4-6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 12-May 16; African Drumming Circle from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15; Advances in Breast Reconstruction from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 20; Stress Reduction Through Guided Imagery from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 24 and Cultivating Forgiveness from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, March 31, all at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Kids and Teens

Free Teen Beauti Workshops Pure Girls will be offering free Teen Beauti Workshops from 4-5 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the month of March, at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Pleasanton. Reservation are required, call 485-4380 or visit www.puregirlscub.com.

More Granny's Bedtime Stories Town of Danville and Village Theatre Shows presents "More Granny's Bedtime Stories" by Jeff Seaburg at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 8, 6:30

WEEKEND PREVIEW



DANVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

Take a musical journey around the world

Danville Community Band presents "A Musical Journey Around the World" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The event is free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 9-10, 2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$8 and \$10. Call (925) 314-3463.

Mother Goose Time and Preschool Storytime Danville Library will host Mother Goose Time for children

ages 0-2 at 10:15 a.m., Mondays-Wednesdays and at 11:15 a.m., Tuesdays, until March 14 and Preschool Storytime for 3-5 year olds at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

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Uncle Eye, Musical Storyteller
Danville Library will host the nutty, fun and entertaining musical storyteller, Uncle Eye, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 13, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Youth to Youth Middle School Conference This conference will be an amazing, empowering day for 6-8 grade students to spend with high schools students from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan, Danville. The day will include: keynote speakers, workshops, games, activities, lunch, dinner and a dance. Cost is \$30 until March 3, \$40 thereafter. To register, visit www.srvcasa.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Advances in Diabetes Treatment
Endocrinologist Mahmood Kazemi, M.D., and Dietitian Pam Wilson, MS, RD, will discuss recent advances in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, including new oral medications and drugs that can improve glycemic control from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. This event is free. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Gardening Seminars Sloat Garden Centers will host a workshop on "Orchids 101" at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 3, at Sloat Garden Centers, 828 Diablo Rd., Danville. Cost is \$5, free for Gardeners Reward members. Visit www.sloatgardens.com.

Historic Lecture Series San Ramon Historic Foundation and San Ramon Valley Library Foundation will host a Historic Lecture Series of six programs. Each program will start at 7 p.m., Thursdays, at various different locations. The next lecture will be on Early Pioneers on March 16. All programs are free, but donations are accepted. Call 973-3281.

Miscellaneous

Danville Police Citizen's Academy
Danville Police Department will offer another session of the Citizen's Police Academy for 10 weeks from 6-9 p.m., starting Wednesday, March 14. Sessions are limited to 20 participants, who must be 18 years or older with no misdemeanor convictions within one year and no felony convictions. For an application, contact Shawn at 314-3400 or sdesmond@ci.danville.ca.us.

Free Electronic Waste Event The Town of Danville and Universal Waste Management, Inc. will host a Free Public Collection Event for E-Waste Recycling from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April 1, at the Danville Park &

Ride Parking Lot, at the northwest corner of Sycamore Valley Rd. and Camino Ramon. Call (888) 832-9839.

San Ramon Symphonic Band San Ramon Symphonic Band is seeking a successor to their director, who is retiring after 20 years. The ideal candidate should have experience in directing adult instrumental groups, talent development and program innovation. Call David Turner at 736-7802 or visit www.geocities.com/sanramonband/.

San Ramon Valley High School 40th Reunion Attention Classes of 1967, 1968 and 1969! San Ramon Valley High School will hold a 40th High School Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 11. For information, Carol Stewart-Pierovich at 820-4628, Mike Miles at 938-0806 or Stephanie Brown-Myers at 837-0539.

On Stage

'Wigged Out!' Victoria's Hair on Stage has opened its doors for "Wigged Out!" which runs until June, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

Copenhagen Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Copenhagen" for four nights only at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 9-10 and 16-17, at Danville Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St. Tickets are \$10. Call 820-1278.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company Center REPeritory Company presents The Reduced Shakespeare Company performing "The Complete History of America-Abridged" and "All The Great Books-Abridged" running until March 3, at The Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469.

Sports

Danville A's Challenger Baseball Sign-Ups Danville A's Challenger Baseball is for kids with disabilities between the ages of 6-22 and the team is accepting sign-ups. The season is from March 25-June 10, starting at 1:30 p.m., Sundays, at the Dublin Sports Park, Dublin. Call Frank Elliott at 736-5373.

Mustang Soccer Registration Mustang Soccer will begin on-line registration for the 2007 season for Alamo, Danville and Diablo residents until March 31, at www.mustangsoccer.com. Registration is \$100 for under 6 Ponies, \$225 for under 7-under 19. Call 831-1323.

Support Groups

Man to Man Prostate Cancer San Ramon Regional Medical Center

offers "Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group" from 7:30-9 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

Overeaters Anonymous The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. It meets from 7-8 p.m., every Tuesday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. No fees. Call Susie at 275-1391.

Parkinson's Support Group The Tri-Valley Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo provides peer support from 10a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of every month, at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

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

San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support A new and proactive group for FIBRO, CFS, CFIDS and Chronic Pain meets from 7-9 p.m. every other Monday in Danville. This group is positive, informative that meets to help each other to be better advocates. Call for location and information at 234-5621.

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

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

Volunteering

Assistance League of Diablo Valley This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

Bedford Gallery Guild The Bedford Gallery Guild is looking for volunteers to donate time at the art gallery in the Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts. No prior art knowledge required. Contact Susan Helms at 837-0716 or sjhelms1@prodigy.net

Blackhawk Museum Docent Training If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour needs volunteers Saturdays, April 28 and May 5. Volunteers will be rewarded with free, private tours of beautiful native gardens. For information, call (510) 236-9558 or visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

CCI Volunteer Puppy Raising Program Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) are looking for special volunteers interested in raising a CCI puppy for 15-18 months and are now accepting applications. For information, call 1-800-572-BARK (2275) or visit www.cci.org.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3106 Half Dome, sat mar 3rd 8a-4p

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Blue Delft pitcher - \$59
Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89
Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39

220 Computers/ Electronics

4 LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM - \$59
Brookstone Sound Machine - \$10
Brookstone Sound Machine - \$6
DSL ROUTER ETC. - \$20
Misc. Computer Accessories - \$8
PROJECTOR, TEL & COMPUTER STUFF - \$20

230 Freebies

COUCH - FREE

240 Furnishings/ Household items

10 taper Candles - \$8
2 NEW BEDSIDE COMMODES - \$30 each
2 White patio chairs, 5 baskets - \$1 - \$5
8 Gold taper Candles - \$6
Beautiful Wood Inlaid Bedroom set - \$1,600.
Candles - \$15
Computer Unit - \$900
CONFERENCE TABLE - \$15
DINING TABLE - \$15
Entertainment Cabinet - \$500
Inlaid King Bedroom set - \$1600.
JENN AIR DISHWASHER - \$40
Leather Recliner Chair
Mission-style, hunter green. Leather worn, but chair in good condition. Will deliver Pleasanton. 846-4058 FREE
Oak Futon - Queen - \$175
Oven Toster (multi-function) - \$15
Princess Desk - \$125

QS sofa bed \$499 925-362-0147

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Triple Dresser, Veler0 - \$75

Twin Bed and Nightstand - \$200

Various items - \$ by item

Wicker Dresser - \$300

245 Miscellaneous



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280 Gourmet Foods & Wine

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www.YounglvyAcademy.com

350 Preschools/ Schools/Camps

ABC Preschool/Childcare - 484-2554

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355 Items for Sale

A box of baby boy's clothes etc. - \$10
booster & step, potty, potty seat - \$5-\$10

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Send a cover letter and resume to Gina Channell-Allen, president / publisher, gallen@pleasantonweekly.com; The Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or fax to 925-600-1433.

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San Ramon, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1800/mo

805 Homes for Rent
Dublin Homes For Rent, 4 BR/3 BA - \$2800

Pleasanton Homes For Rent 5+ BR/2.5 BA - \$2595

Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3 BA - \$3700/mont

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

Danville, 1 BR/1 BA
Private Master suite with bath. Females only. Rent includes utilities, laundry, maid service and enclosed garage. Must like cats. No smoking. Call 648-7308 or email brui@sbcbglobal.net. Available now. \$850/month

Dublin, 4 BR/1.5 BA - \$550 per m

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$700.00

Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3 BA - \$700-1500/

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

www.williamsteam.net/3 Bdr, 2.5ba In Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$678,800

Danville, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$449000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA
This lovely townhome is located close to downtown. 1446 sqft with a 2 car garage. Fireplace A/C. Will be held open by Agent Bill Swanson of Prudential. Ph#510-489-2000 on March 3rd from 12 to 3 \$549000 236 Rachael Pl.


San Ramon, 2 BR/2 BA - \$469,000

www.williamsteam.net/beautiful/ 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,257,500

www.williamsteam.net/gorgeous/ 5+ BR/3 BA - \$988,800

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Review a restaurant
Report a sports score and more
Be a Citizen Journalist



HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville

232 Abigail Circle E. Rojas to T. Smith for \$869,000
633 Adobe Drive L. & S. Sode to M. Sosa for \$1,325,000
1272 Ariel Drive Shapell Homes to J. & S. Clark for \$1,250,000
103 Belgian Drive E. & J. Schmidt to Reed Trust for \$920,000
370 Bridgeside Circle Campion Trust to J. Schmidt for \$540,000
611 Bridgewater Circle D. Ransdell to G. & J. Turner for \$1,100,000
8 Brooktree Drive Diablo Ranch Development to L. Liu for \$2,600,000
512 Cambrian Way Yeung Trust to B. & D. Springer for \$675,000
25 Chestnut Place J. Wenzel to Henshaw Trust for \$2,205,000
1659 Colchester Street Lennar Homes to T. & J. Phung for \$1,305,000
1780 Cottswald Street Lennar Homes to R. & V. Chou for \$1,089,500
2280 Genoa Street R. Hennessy to M. & H. Russello for \$1,020,000
13 Glen Hollow Road Bozzini Trust to C. & T. Hammond for \$1,595,000

20 Glenhill Court J. Tarantino to C. & T. West for \$1,340,000
110 Hope Lane M. Cheng to T. & G. Doolittle for \$1,400,000
8 Hunters Terrace Duchene Trust to J. & L. Sieckert for \$2,450,000
277 Jasmine Way M. Pham to M. Parkin for \$999,000
3009 Live Oak Court T. Garrett to C. Russell for \$989,000
184 Loch Lomond Way M. & L. McMillen to S. & M. Vilke for \$1,250,000
2458 Marsanne Street Lennar Homes to Y. Vu for \$1,220,500
1483 Menton Street D. & C. Schroeder to R. Nayar for \$1,090,000
74 Milano Court J. & M. Goriup to Flanagan Trust for \$995,000
144 Oakridge Drive Espenschied Trust to J. & E. Yang for \$865,000
21 Ocho Rios Place Gohl Trust to R. Mariella for \$950,000
133 Parkhaven Drive S. & T. Marohn to A. Zwahlen-Hoffman for \$925,000
143 Provence Road J. & S. Clark to S. & T. Marohn for \$1,475,000
610 Reading Place P. & M. Gunawan to S. & L. Laue for \$910,000

103 Rimini Court Lennar Homes to G. & M. Biging for \$1,070,000
1097 River Rock Lane Stefani Trust to J. & C. Marsala for \$900,000
152 Santa Clara Drive K. & J. Michel to J. & S. Lankford for \$830,000
22 Shelterwood Place Primacy Closing Corporation to B. Mahshi for \$1,165,000
122 St. Jean Court T. & V. Pena to K. Beasley for \$770,000
231 Stetson Drive H. & T. Kurosu to H. & M. Man for \$895,000
2010 Swan Street J. Foster to T. Garrett for \$620,000
303 Windchime Drive J. & M. Moeller to D. Rebhahn for \$892,500

Alamo

2427 Alamo Glen Drive J. & E. Blankmeyer to Thakar Trust for \$1,611,500
2982 Limestone Road R. Kochly to W. Wessler for \$893,500
221 Livorna Heights Road S. Mullin to Katsoulis Trust for \$1,060,000
30 Manti Terrace C. & S. Brennan to R. & R. Mcgee for \$3,925,000
195 Vagabond Way A. Walker

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2007

Danville

Total sales reported: 35
 Lowest sale reported: \$540,000
 Highest sale reported: \$2,600,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,156,986

Alamo

Total sales reported: 5
 Lowest sale reported: \$893,500
 Highest sale reported: \$3,925,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,748,000

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 37
 Lowest sale reported: \$185,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,650,000
 Average sales reported: \$576,689

to G. & M. Chandler for \$1,250,000

Walnut Creek

645 Appaloosa Drive Barbee Trust to M. & H. Cheney for \$868,000
206 Charter Oak Circle K. & M. McCracken to A. & B. Karris for \$496,000
250 Charter Oak Circle J. Strauss to T. Lam for \$560,000
814 Fox Glen Place W. & P. Hoge to R. & R. Little for \$1,430,000
1833 Holland Drive G. Cannella to Hague Trust for \$515,000
52 Iron Horse Lane B. & N. Kobrin to C. Korman for \$542,000
505 Jones Place J. Blake to C. Ng for \$355,000
2650 Jones Road #9 K. & E. Opet to P. Martersteck for \$335,000

404 Le Jean Way D. Kuykendall to J. & J. Lock for \$715,000
2523 Lucy Lane #B J. Fallon to A. Yee for \$398,000
213 Masters Court #1 Fairways 340 to R. May for \$325,000
351 Masters Court #1 Fairways 340 to Brown Trust for \$474,500
227 Masters Court #2 Fairways 340 to J. & S. Smith for \$435,000
121 Molly Way K. Wong to D. Quinlan for \$799,000
2550 Oak Road #118 Bridgeport Commons to J. Foreman for \$442,000
2530 Oak Road #206 Bridgeport Commons to M. Rianda for \$455,000
2734 Oak Road #96 A. Blason to E. Vittet for \$289,000
2585 Oak Road #B Lane Trust to B. Bard for \$458,000

324 Persimmon Road B. & I. James to A. Shams for \$898,000
503 Pimlico Court M. & L. Dolan to D. & A. Furukawa for \$465,000
318 Pimlico Drive D. & E. Starkey to Saunders Trust for \$625,000
70 Pleasant Valley Drive D. & J. Gonsalves to H. Ingram for \$682,000
1944 Pomar Way C. Sharick to S. Alexander for \$535,000
2520 Ptarmigan Drive #4 Wood Trust to Rorie Trust for \$442,000
1622 Rockspring Place Irion Trust to D. & A. Cartwright for \$982,500
3298 Rossmoor Parkway #7 W. Wettig to Hildebrand Trust for \$523,000
2641 Saklan Indian Drive #3 Macy Trust to Sanders Trust for \$450,000

231 Stetson Drive ~ Danville



Views! Views! Views!

Fabulous Updated Bentley Model - 5 Bedroom + Master Retreat, 3 Baths, Approx. 2,425 sq.ft. - Excellent Location in Tassajara Ranch! Premium Lot - Backs to Open Space with Views! Close to Diablo Vista Park & the Community Jr. Olympic Pool, Tot Pool & Clubhouse. Easy Commute, Great Schools, Near Shopping, Movies & Restaurants!

Square footage has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Information believed to be accurate but not verified. If your property is currently listed for sale, this is not a solicitation for your business.



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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

To list your home in the Danville Weekly Open Home Guide, please email: OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

Alamo

3 Bedrooms

914 Ina Dr. **\$1,398,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451
301 Vernal Dr. **\$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2600

4 Bedrooms

46 Vista Ln. **\$1,495,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 672-2499

Blackhawk

4 Bedrooms

34 Magnolia Pl. **\$1,995,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 648-5346

6 Bedrooms

5077 Blackhawk Dr. **\$2,799,999**
Sun 1-4 Intero 457-6960

Danville

2 Bedrooms

2200 Oneida Cir. **\$630,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5510

3 Bedrooms

1009 Phoenix St. **\$559,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 736-8411

56 Summer Hill Ct. **\$729,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 736-8411

35 Mountain Valley Wy. **\$754,950**
Sun 1-4 Intero 736-8411

132 Vista Del Diablo **\$800,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 648-5346

4 Bedrooms

408 Coventry Pl. **\$1,069,950**
Sun 1-4 Intero 899-9651

309 Greenbrook **\$1,094,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

311 Culet Dr. **\$1,399,000**
Sun 2-4:30 Intero 672-2499

11 Jillian Wy. **\$1,599,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 648-5342

9891 Broadmoor Dr. **\$739,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 736-8411

1160 Shady Creek **\$743,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 548-1717

389 Squirrel Ridge Wy. **\$995,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

705 Watson Canyon Ct. **\$459,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4190

1054 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$755,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4128

3 Bedrooms

140 Shadowhill Cir. **\$715,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 876-4459

36 Bridlepath Ct. **\$750,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 642-0365

2782 Ellingson Wy. **\$769,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4060

929 Vista Pointe Dr. **\$789,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4128

1058 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$840,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4128

4 Bedrooms

120 Claremont Crest **\$765,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 787-8205

5 Bedrooms

16 Pine Valley Pl. **\$1,325,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 487-6211

3125 Tewksbury Wy. **\$1,359,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4128

3825 Mandy Wy. **\$1,375,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 336-6399

2826 Bethany Rd. **\$1,549,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

201 Pleasant Valley Ct. **\$979,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822

Walnut Creek

4 Bedrooms

3025 Ebano Dr. **\$1,099,000**
Sun 1-4 Intero 209-4798

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms

236 Rachael Pl. **\$549,000**
Sat 12-3 Prudential 510-489-2000

Dublin

2 Bedrooms

7787 Chantilly Dr. **\$524,500**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

3 Bedrooms

7855 Gardella Dr. **\$633,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

4 Bedrooms

6965 Penn Dr. **\$675,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

Livermore

3 Bedrooms

4740 Kimberley Cmn. **\$639,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 735-7653

4 Bedrooms

5348 Hillflower Dr. **\$640,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 888-825-0428

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME FOR FREE!

OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

City _____		
# of Bedrooms _____	Street Address _____	\$ Price of property _____
Day, Date & Time Open _____	Agent Name Real Estate Agency _____	Phone Number _____

DEADLINE IS TUESDAY 10 A.M.


FAX TO: (925) 837-2278
OR E-MAIL TO :
OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

Name: _____


Daytime Phone Number: _____

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Open Sunday 1-4




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BLACKHAWK

Magnificent Curb Appeal **\$2,799,999**
6bd, 5.5ba, complete au pair apartment plus separate guest house. Wrap around porch, newly painted exterior, new roof, massive kitchen, sparkling pool.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



DANVILLE

City Close-Country Quiet **\$1,875,000**
Almost 2 acres of prime property. Country charmer with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, lower bonus room, updated and remodeled throughout. Approved for horses.
John Lopes & Gina Cefalu **925.998.8262**



ALAMO

Beautiful Updated Single Story **\$1,750,000**
5bd, 3ba, spacious family room, hardwood floors, slab granite, new carpet, new paint! Gorgeous yard with pool & spa.
Sharon Dare **925.855.4041**



DANVILLE

Reduced Over \$140K **\$1,749,000**
Over 1 acre horse property with all the conveniences and charms of downtown Danville. 5bd, 3.5ba, bonus room, new carpet & paint, views!
Khrista Jarvis **925.855.4065**



DANVILLE

Westside Danville Views! **\$1,595,000**
Nestled on 1.77+/-acres amongst majestic oaks and bay laurels. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, immaculately maintained.
Ralph Sessa **925.858.5233**



ALAMO

Park-Like Setting on Westside **\$1,569,000**
3bd, 3.5ba, over 3700sf custom with library off master and a very private separate studio and great RV parking and elevator.
Julie Whitmer **925.997.5120**



ALAMO

Totally Remodeled-Westside **\$1,545,000**
4bd, 3ba, slab granite in kitchen, wood & travertine floors. Many French doors, all new windows, new master bath. Beautiful grounds.
The McDougall Team **925.672.2499**



DANVILLE

Level Lot W/Hillside Views **\$1,249,000**
Great family home w/huge gourmet kitchen, open to large FR, 5bd, 4ba, beautiful master, 2bd suite w/private bath, 1bd/1ba on first floor.
Pam Gaya **925.855.4049**



DANVILLE

Spectacular Location - Stunning Views! **\$1,248,000**
Totally private, 4bd, 3ba, gorgeous hardwood floors, many new windows, 3 French doors, new landscape, updated kitchen, 3-car garage.
Lisa & Greg Doyle **925.855.4046**

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